WEDNESDAY
November 19, 2025

BENGALURU
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ਗੁਰਦਤ ਦੇ 350 ਸਾਲ
ਹਿੰਦ ਦੀ ਚਾਦਰ
ਸ੍ਰੀ ਗੁਰੂ ਤੇਗ ਬਹਾਦਰ ਜੀ
1675 - 2025

350TH MARTYRDOM DAY

ਪੰਜਾਬ ਸਰਕਾਰ
GOVT. OF PUNJAB

Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji

Bhai Mati Das Ji,
Bhai Sati Das Ji,
Bhai Dayala Ji

dedicated to

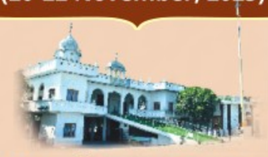
DETAILS OF NAGAR KIRTAN AND SAMAGAMS

Srinagar to Sri Anandpur Sahib
(19-22 November, 2025)

Srinagar 1
Jammu 2
Pathankot 3
Dasuya 4
Hoshiarpur 5
Mahilpur 6
Garshankar 7
Sri Anandpur Sahib 8

Halt
Day 1: Jammu (19 November, 2025)
Day 2: Pathankot (20 November, 2025)
Day 3: Hoshiarpur (21 November, 2025)

Gurdaspur to Sri Anandpur Sahib
(20-22 November, 2025)



Gurdaspur 1
Batala 2
Baba Bakala Sahib 3
Sri Amritsar Sahib 4
Tarn Taran 5
Goindwal Sahib 6
Kapurthala 7
Kartarpur 8
Jalandhar 9
Phagwara 10
Banga 11
Nawanshahr 12
Balachaur 13
Sri Anandpur Sahib 14

Halt
Day 1: Sri Amritsar Sahib (20 November, 2025)
Day 2: Jalandhar (21 November, 2025)

Faridkot to Sri Anandpur Sahib
(20-22 November, 2025)

Faridkot 1
Ferozepur 2
Moga 3
Jagraon 4
Ludhiana 5
Khanna 6
Sirhind 7
Fatehgarh Sahib 8
Morinda 9
Chamkaur Sahib 10
Rupnagar 11
Sri Anandpur Sahib 12

Halt
Day 1: Ludhiana (20 November, 2025)
Day 2: Fatehgarh Sahib (21 November, 2025)

Takht Sri Damdama Sahib, Talwandi Sabo to Sri Anandpur Sahib
(20-22 November, 2025)

Takht Sri Damdama Sahib, Talwandi Sabo 1
Bathinda 2
Barnala 3
Sangrur 4
Patiala 5
Rajpura 6
Banur 7
Sahibzada Ajit Singh Nagar 8
Kurali 9
Rupnagar 10
Sri Anandpur Sahib 11

Halt
Day 1: Sangrur (20 November, 2025)
Day 2: Sahibzada Ajit Singh Nagar (21 November, 2025)

Samagams at Sri Anandpur Sahib

23rd November 2025

Commencement of Sri Akhand Path Sahib
Inauguration of Exhibition based on the life of Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji
Sarv Dharam Sammelan
Guided tour of Virasat-e-Khalsa, Bhai Jaita Ji Memorial, and Panj Pyare Park
Drone Show
Katha and Kirtan Darbar

24th November 2025

Sis Bhet Nagar Kirtan (Kiratpur Sahib to Sri Anandpur Sahib)
Heritage Walk at Sri Anandpur Sahib
Special Assembly Session dedicated to Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji
Dhadi and Kavishar Darbar
Plays/Readings/Poetry based on the life and teachings of Guru Sahib
Gatka and other performances
Drone Show
Katha and Kirtan Darbar

25th November 2025

Bhog Sri Akhand Path Sahib
State-level Blood Donation Drive
Statewide Campaign to plant 3.50 lakh saplings
Gurbani Kirtan
Sarbat Da Bhala Gathering
Drone Show

The Ninth Guru, Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji - the protector of religious freedom and human rights, the embodiment of compassion and sacrifice, and an eternal symbol of courage, continues to shine as a beacon of light for all humanity. Let us, along with our families, bow in reverence on this sacred land and be part of these divine events.

Department of Information and Public Relations, Punjab

1092/18/2025-26/5138

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THE HASINA QUESTION

India mulls response to extradition request

NEWS » PAGE 12

PATH TO PEACE?

UN approves Trump's plan to secure, govern Gaza

WORLD » PAGE 16

VIDEO EMERGES

Delhi suicide bomber seen rehearsing lines

NEWS » PAGE 12

DATA POINT

Caste and class factors in NDA's victory in Bihar

Broadbased support across castes for NDA

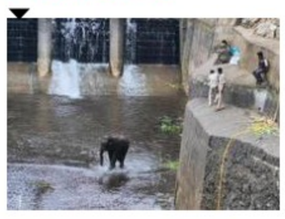
OPINION » PAGE 11

QS SUSTAINABILITY RANKINGS

103 Indian varsities make it to the list

NEWS » PAGE 14

NEARBY



Wild tusker rescued after 3-day ordeal

MYSURU
A young tusker was rescued and released back into the forest near Shivanasamudra in Malavalli taluk after it was trapped for three days in the canal. » PAGE 8

GBA prepares paid parking plan

BENGALURU
The GBA has drawn up a plan to introduce paid parking across all five corporations. It is reviewing a previous study that mapped and identified space for over 23,200 two-wheelers apart from additional space for car parking within the erstwhile BBMP limits. » PAGE 2

OPPORTUNITIES » PAGE 7

SC recalls judgment on retrospective green nods

Majority 2-1 verdict upholds review pleas citing public interest; Justice Bhuyan's dissent says court is backtracking for the sake of violators

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

A three-judge Bench of the Supreme Court, in a majority judgment on Tuesday, recalled its May 16 verdict declaring the Centre's grant of *ex post facto* or retrospective environmental clearances (ECs) to building projects and constructions a "gross illegality" and an "anathema".

Chief Justice of India B.R. Gavai, who is retiring on November 23, said in his separate opinion that the May 16 judgment, if allowed to continue to operate, would have a "devastating effect" and "thousands of crores of Rupees would go to waste".

Justice K. Vinod Chandran backed his view, forming the majority on the Bench.

Justice Ujjal Bhuyan recorded a sharp dissent in his 97-page opinion. He termed the review judgment an "innocent expression of opinion" which overlooked the "very fundamentals of environmental jurisprudence".

The separate individual opinions of the Chief Justice and Justice Bhuyan clashed, with the latter saying he was pained to see the country's highest court "backtracking on sound environmental jurisprudence" for the sake of violators, even as the "deadly Delhi smog reminds us everyday about the hazards of environmental pollution".

After reading excerpts from his minority opinion in the courtroom, Justice Bhuyan seemed to signal verbally that he would stop. But the Chief Justice said with a smile that he could read on as the judgment would be a public document on its publication later in the day.

Justice Bhuyan was a member of the two-judge Bench, headed by the now-retired Justice A.S. Oka, which had delivered the May 16 judgment.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 12

Divergent views

The Supreme Court's majority verdict and dissenting voice focus on different aspects of retrospective environmental clearances

CJI B.R. Gavai, Justice K. Vinod Chandran uphold review petitions: Continuation of the May 16 verdict striking down *ex post facto* EC, will have a "devastating" impact on economy and development

Projects likely to be affected:

- 24 Central projects worth ₹8,293 crore
- 29 State-level projects worth ₹11,168 crore
- Loss to public exchequer to the tune of nearly ₹20,000 crore

Justice Ujjal Bhuyan finds no case for review: *Ex post facto* EC is anathema to the environment. Upholding the review would seem like the SC backtracking when a deadly smog is choking Delhi. A false narrative is being created, pitting the environment against development

Top Maoist leader Hidma, wife among 6 killed in A.P.

T. Appala Naidu
MAREDUMILLI

Top Maoist commander Madvi Hidma, a Central Committee member and South Bastar battalion commandant of the banned CPI (Maoist), and five others were killed in an encounter in Alluri Sitharama Raju district of Andhra Pradesh on Tuesday.

Hidma's wife Madakam Raje, a member of the Chhattisgarh State Zonal Committee, was among those killed in the gunfight that took place between 6.30 a.m. and 7 a.m. near Nelloru village in Maredumilli Agency. The other four Maoists have been identified as Deve, Lakmal, Malla and Kamlu – Hidma's guards.

"All six bodies, including those of Madvi and Raje, have been recovered and shifted to Rampachodavaram Area Hospital for post-mortem," said Andhra Pradesh intelligence chief Mahesh Chandra Laddha. "A few Maoists ran away from the place of encounter in the cover of the thick forest. A search is on for them," he said.

Security forces recovered two AK-47s, 15 electrical and 150 non-electrical detonators, other weapons, and ammunition from the site.

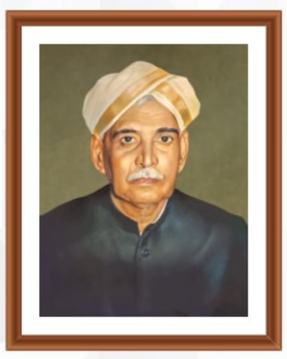
CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 12
SETBACK FOR MAOISTS
» PAGE 9

ADGP (Intelligence) Mahesh Chandra Laddha inspecting the weapons seized from the encounter site. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

51 Maoists held, arms seized in Andhra Pradesh

VIJAYAWADA
The Organisation for Counter Terrorist Operations (OCTOPUS) and police personnel arrested 51 Maoists in several districts of Andhra Pradesh on Tuesday. This is said to be the first such major arrests from the urban areas in one single day. A huge cache of ammunition and cash were also seized. » PAGE 9

In fond memory of our beloved founders



Shri. Chikka Muniyappa Reddy
(1907 - 1982)

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Private University Estd in Karnataka State by Act No. 46 of 2013

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CMR GROUP OF INSTITUTIONS

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Chikka Muniyappa Reddy (1917 - 2002)

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CORDIALLY INVITE YOU TO

Founder's Day 2025

Wednesday, 19th November 2025

Inauguration of Academic Block, Distribution of CMR Leadership Awards, Sports and CMR Scholarships

Time: 10:30 AM
Venue: CMR University, Lakeside Campus, Off Hennur-Bagalur Road, Chagalatti, Bengaluru - 562149

CHIEF GUESTS

Shri. Ramalinga Reddy
Hon'ble Minister for Transport and Muzrai
Government of Karnataka

Dr. K P Gopalkrishna
Chairman NPS Group of institutions, NAFL and TISB

Dr. C Honnappa Gowda
International Kabaddi Player & Arjuna Awardee

GUEST OF HONOUR

Dr. K C Ramamurthy, IPS (Retd.)
Former Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha,
Chairman, CMR Group of Institutions & CMR University,
Chairman, Ekya Board of Governors

PRESIDING

Dr. Sabitha Ramamurthy
President, CMR Jnanadhara Trust,
Chancellor, CMR University,
Co-Chairperson, Ekya Board of Governors

Award of CMR Seva Puraskara for Life Time Achievement, Distribution of Service Awards, Felicitation of Academic Achievers

Time: 04:30 PM
Venue: CMR National Public School, HRBR Layout, Bengaluru - 560084

CHIEF GUESTS

Shri. Jaggesh
Hon'ble Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha

Shri. Sharath Bache Gowda
Hon'ble Member of Legislative Assembly
Chairman, KEONICS

Shri. H S Chandramouli
Senior Advocate, High Court of Karnataka

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Co-Chairperson, Ekya Board of Governors

Shri. Jayadeep K R Reddy
CEO, CMR Group of Institutions
Pro-Chancellor, CMR University
Director, Ekya Schools,

Dr. Tristha Ramamurthy
Founder, Ekya Schools,
Vice President, CMR Group of Institutions
Provost, CMR University

Shri. K C Jagannath Reddy
Secretary, CMR Jnanadhara Trust

Dr. H B Raghavendra
Vice Chancellor, CMR University

Trustees: Smt. Anitha Kasu Rajagopal Reddy • Smt. Shobha Hanuma Reddy • Shri. K R Lakshmish,
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M BG-BGE

Juvan and Zidansek — the catalysts behind Slovenia's flawless campaign

The BJK Cup saw the duo go from strength to strength to become giant-killers in an incredible run which saw the team progress to the Qualifiers as the group topper

Swing time! Zidansek and Juvan hardly put a foot wrong as they quelled the challenge from the Netherlands and India in the play-offs. The bubbly Juvan became a big hit with the fans and posed for selfies with them. K. MURALI KUMAR

Ashwin Achal
BENGALURU

Kaja Juvan and Tamara Zidansek had flawless campaigns in the Billie Jean King Cup Group 'G' play-offs at the S.M. Krishna Tennis Stadium here.

The duo dominated proceedings with two victories each, guiding Slovenia to the top of the group, and to the Qualifiers round as a result. Slovenia's opening tie, against the Netherlands, was pivotal in shaping the final outcome. The winner of this match-up between the two best teams would be ideally placed to seal a berth in the next round.

On paper, it was the Netherlands which was fancied. The Dutch had the highest-ranked player of the group in Suzan Lamens (World No. 87), and an experienced second singles combatant in Arantxa Rus (139).

But Juvan (98) and Zidansek (162) flipped the script in grand fashion. Zidansek gave her side the ideal start, adjusting to bouncy courts in great style to dismantle Rus 6-1, 7-6(6). Juvan displayed tireless energy to wear out Lamens in a close encounter which went the distance.

High on confidence after slaying the favourite, Slovenia made short work of host India the following day. Zidansek briefly dipped but found her rhythm to get past Shrivalli Bhamidipaty 6-3, 4-6, 6-1 before Juvan cruised past Sahaja Yamalapalli 6-4, 6-2.

Zidansek's recent success comes in a phase in her career when she just wants to enjoy playing tennis, without worrying about the results and rankings. Zidansek, 27, does not want to be hard on herself any more. "You are expected to be at your best every day, and chase points and go up the rankings and win every match. But that's not reality. It is tough to be at your best all the time, physically and mentally. On the other side, normal life happens. You go through experiences and they make you stronger, and you gain a different view," Zidansek explained.

Zidansek's highlight came at the 2021 French Open, where she reached the semifinal. This made her the first Slovenian female player to reach a Grand Slam last-four.

She started 2022 well, reaching a career-high ranking of 22. A COVID-19 bout, however, took a toll on her health. "I played my best tennis at the beginning of 2022. I was feeling really good on clay and hard courts. But then COVID happened. I had a really bad post-COVID recovery which took six to eight months. I couldn't recover physically, and I could not compete at my best. When you are not at 100%, you start to lose, and it hurts your confidence. From then on, it was just a spiral," Zidansek said.

Zidansek is now back to full fitness, and is also pursuing off-the-court passions. She has taken up a bachelors course in psychology – a healthy way to spend her free time. "Doing the bachelor's degree – sometimes it is great because it occupies you when you have a lot of free time. But sometimes it's a little bit too much. Overall, I'm really happy that I'm doing this. Hopefully one day I get to do a Masters as well," Zidansek said.

Difficult phase

For Juvan, this is an era of rebuilding and healing. Juvan lost her father, Robert, to cancer a couple of years ago. This was understandably a huge blow for Juvan, who was very close to her father.

"People always look at tennis players as robots a little bit, but this is not the case. I was very, very close with my dad. He is the one that I got my competitiveness from," Juvan said. "My world fell apart for a little bit. It is very normal to take some time to grieve. I got to say goodbye to him, to be with him in the hospital. Whenever I think about him, I think about his fighting spirit, how strong he was for me, my brother," Juvan said.

The 24-year-old took a break from the tour after her father's demise. "It was quite hard for me to grieve and compete at the same time. Tennis was always so fun for me, so when the fun is lost, it's quite hard for me to compete. When I had some time off, I remembered why I love tennis. I had some time to think about my dad a little bit more. It is hard to come back to the tour again, but I think I'm slowly finding the rhythm, being more consistent," Juvan said.

A tall, powerful, supremely fit athlete, Juvan has all the attributes to go up the rankings. "It is great that I'm in the top 100, but I think that my goals are even higher," Juvan said. Juvan, incidentally, is a close friend of World No. 2 and six-time Grand Slam champion Iga Swiatek. Juvan and Swiatek used to train together when they were young, and teamed up to win the girls' doubles gold at the 2018 Summer Youth Olympics.

Juvan stated that Swiatek, despite all her success, has stayed grounded. "When we were juniors, we were – until one point – playing the same tournaments and moving in the same circles. Iga didn't change her personality when she became a top player. She's not trying to please everyone. For me, Iga was always a friend first. I never really looked at her as a superstar," Juvan said.

At the 2023 US Open, the friends faced other on court in a third round outing. Swiatek, then the world's top-ranked player, whipped Juvan 6-0, 6-1.

After the match, Swiatek checked in to see if Juvan's feelings were hurt. "Iga came to me and asked me, 'Are we still friends?'. I said, 'Of course we are friends. What are you talking about? It's just one match.' When I am on the court, I'm compete hard. And when we finish, it's finished," Juvan said.

Juvan enjoyed her time in Bengaluru, and is hopeful that hosting that Billie Jean Cup playoffs will raise the profile of women's tennis in India.

"This is such a big event for India. It's my second time here, and it's very nice. The more people that come to the stadium, the better it is for our sport. I'm happy that the Indian girls are getting the recognition they deserve," Juvan said.

THE GIST

- The Dutch had the highest-ranked player of the group in Lamens and a second singles combatant in Rus. But Juvan and Zidansek flipped the script in grand fashion
- Zidansek's recent success comes at a time in her career when she just wants to enjoy playing tennis without worrying about the results and rankings
- A powerful and supremely fit athlete, Juvan has all the attributes to climb up the rankings

BANGALORE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

T. Chowdaiah Road, Kumara Park West, Bengaluru - 560 020

No: BDA/2025-26/SE0075 Date:18.11.2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION

Bangalore Development Authority invites tenders for **"Implementation and Operationalization of United Tapal System in BDA."**

Tender documents are available on the e-Procurement portal from **17.11.2025** and the Last date for bid submission is **29.11.2025, 5.30 P.M.** Technical bids will be opened on **01.12.2025 at 11.30 A.M.** Interested bidders may refer to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** for detailed information or contact the EDP Cell, BDA, Bengaluru.

Note: Any changes or updates will be published only on the e-Procurement portal, so bidders are requested to check the portal regularly.

Sd/- Head of Department, EDP Cell, BDA, Bengaluru.

Hubli-Dharwad Urban Development Authority, Navanagar, Hubli

Ref No : HDUDA/e-Auction/01/2025-26/3924

Date : 17 /11/2025

e-Auction Notification

e-Auction of Corner Sites and Stray Sites in prestigious Layouts Developed by HDUDA

1) Date of Opening of e-auction and commencement of registration for e-auction **19-11-2025** after 4:00 pm IST
2) Last Date of Registration for e-bidding is **08-12-2025** @ 4:00 pm IST
3) Date of opening for e-Auction and Commencement of live bidding starts on **09-12-2025** @ 11:00 am IST
4) Last Date and time for closing e-Auction **11-12-2025** @ 4:00 pm IST (5 Minutes of Delta time)

For additional conditions, rules and information visit Web site https://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in

Sd/- (Shakir Sanadi) Chairman Hubli-Dharwad Urban Development Authority, Navanagar, Hubli

Sd/- (Dr.Santhoshkumar Biradar) KAS Commissioner Hubli-Dharwad Urban Development Authority, Navanagar, Hubli

DIPR/Dharwad/KSMCA/888/2025-26

BENGALURU SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT LIMITED

Office of the Deputy General Manager-1, BSWML, 1st Floor, BBMP Building, Thimmaiah Road, Vasanthnagar, Bengaluru-560052.

No: DGM-1/BSWML/PR/655/2025-26 Date: 18-11-2025

CORRIGENDUM- 1

Sub: Updation of Calendar of Events for Tender Notification.

Ref: This office Tender Notification No:DGM-1/BSWML/TEND/10/2025-26, Date: 03-11-2025.

As per the above subject and reference, the calendar of events for the above tender notification is extended due to technical reasons. The Change in the Calendar of Events is as shown in below table.

Time Schedule / Calendar of Events:

Sl. No.	As per Tender Notification		Updated Dates Please Read as
1	Last Date of Receipt of Tender	On 20-11-2025 upto16.00 Hrs.	**On 04-12-2025 upto16.00 Hrs.**
2	Opening of Technical Bid	On 21-11-2025 at 16.30 Hrs.	**On 05-12-2025 at 16.30 Hrs.**

For Further details visit GOK KPP Portal Website: **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Deputy General Manager-1 BSWML

DIPR/CP/3882/Adverto/2025-26

राजस्थान कर्मचारी चयन बोर्ड

Rajasthan Staff Selection Board

Agriculture Campus, Durgapura, Jaipur, Rajasthan, 302018

https://rssb.rajasthan.gov.in

क्रमांक: पा14(131)RSSB/अर्थना/NHM/संविदा/2024 दिनांक : 17/11/2025

–:प्रेस विज्ञप्तिः–

राष्ट्रीय स्वास्थ्य मिशन के आयुष अधिकारी (आयुर्वेद/होम्योपैथी/यूनानी) संविदा के पदों हेतु सीधी भर्ती – 2025

बोर्ड द्वारा राष्ट्रीय स्वास्थ्य मिशन, चिकित्सा स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण विभाग, जयपुर, राजस्थान के लिये राजस्थान कान्ट्रेक्चुअल हायरिंग टू सिविल पोस्ट रूल्स, 2022 यथा संशोधित के अन्तर्गत संविदा आयुष अधिकारी (आयुर्वेद/होम्योपैथी/यूनानी) के 1535 पदों के लिए विज्ञापन संख्या 06/2025 दिनांक 09.10.2025 को जारी कर ऑनलाईन आवेदन दिनांक 10.10.2025 से दिनांक 08.11.2025 तक आमंत्रित किए गए। **बोर्ड द्वारा उक्त पद पर ऑफलाईन/ऑनलाइन/CBT/TBT (ओ.एम.आर.) आधारित भर्ती परीक्षा का आयोजन दिनांक 26.12.2025 को जिला मुख्यालय जयपुर मे किया जाना है।**

बोर्ड द्वारा दिनांक 14.11.2025 को विज्ञप्ति जारी कर अभ्यर्थियों को ऑनलाईन आवेदन पत्र में त्रुटि संशोधन हेतु (दिनांक 18.11.2025 से दिनांक 24.11.2025 तक) अंतिम अवसर प्रदान किया गया है। भर्ती में निर्धारित शैक्षणिक योग्यता अर्थात् संबंधित प्रमाण–पत्र धारित नहीं करने वाले एवं उक्त परीक्षा में सम्मिलित नहीं होने के इच्छुक आवेदकों को ऑनलाईन आवेदन प्रत्याहरित करने हेतु अंतिम अवसर प्रदान किया जाता है। ऐसे आवेदक कुल 03 दिवस की अवधि में दिनांक 01.12.2025 से दिनांक 03.12.2025, 23.59 बजे तक SSO Portal पर Login कर Recruitment Portal का चयन कर My Recruitment Section के अन्तर्गत संबंधित परीक्षा के समक्ष उपलब्ध Withdraw Button पर क्लिक कर अपना ऑनलाईन आवेदन पत्र प्रत्याहरित (Withdraw) कर सकेंगें। विज्ञापन के अनुसार वांछित योग्यता नहीं होने के बावजूद भी इस अवधि में आवेदन पत्र प्रत्याहरित (Withdraw) नहीं करने वाले अभ्यर्थियों के विरुद्ध बोर्ड द्वारा पात्रता जांच उपरान्त विधि सम्मत कार्यवाही की जायेगी।

विज्ञप्ति की शेष शर्तें पूर्व विज्ञापन संख्या 06/2025 दिनांक 09.10.2025 के अनुसार यथावत रहेंगी। अधिक जानकारी के लिए बोर्ड की वेबसाईट का अवलोकन करते रहें।

सचिव

DIPR/C/16952/2025

Bengaluru South City Corporation

Office of the Executive Engineer, Uttarahalli Divsion, Amruth Nagara, Konankunte Main Road, Soudamini Layout, Bengaluru-560 062.

No. EE/UHD/TEND/02/2025-26 Date: 17.11.2025

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER

Two Cover Tender, (Through GOK KPP Portal only)

website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

The Executive Engineer, Uttarahalli Division, BSCC, Bengaluru, invites tenders from eligible contractors registered with KPWD/CPWD/BWSSB/Railways/MES/National Highway or any State Govt. Organisations for the construction of works detailed in the table below.

Sl. No.	Name of the work/Category	Approximate Amount put to Tender (₹. in Lakhs)	EMD (₹. in Lakhs)
1.	Improvements of Roads and Drains at Narayana Nagara 1st Block in Ward No. 203, Subramanyapura of Uttarahalli Sub Division and Narayana Nagara 2nd and 3rd Block in Ward No.208,Anjanapura of Anjanapura Sub Division, **(Others).**	333.02	4,99,530/-
2.	Providing name Board and Re-paint the old Boards in Ward No.210, Kalena Agrahara, **(Others).**	16.93	42,325/-
3.	Providing name Board and Re-paint the old Boards in Ward No.211, Begur, **(Others).**	16.93	42,325/-

Calendar of Events: (1) Downloading of Tender documents from : **19.11.2025, (2)** Pre-bid meeting **24.11.2025 at 3:00 p.m.** will be held at the Office of the Chief Engineer (Jayanagara Zone-1), 9th Main, 9th Cross, Jayanagara 2nd Block, Bengaluru-11. **(3)** Last date for uploading the Filled Tender document is **03.12.2025 upto 4:00 p.m. (4)** Date of Technical bid opening of Tenders is on **05.12.2025 after 4:30 p.m.**

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Uttarahalli Division, BSCC

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA

BALLARI MEDICAL COLLEGE AND RESEARCH CENTRE, BALLARI.

Reg.No:205/1995-96-Recognized by Medical Council of India, New Delhi vide No:MCI-57(3)/79-Med/1912, Dtd.16-04-1979

e-mail-ids:directorbmcrcbellary@gmail.com, website : https://vims.karnataka.gov.in

NO. BMCRC/GNL-3/36-FC52/Tender/382/2025-26

Date:13.11.2025.

e-TENDER NOTIFICATION

The following works for the construction Civil Works as shown below at BMCRC, Ballari are invited under the K.T.P.P Act 1999-2000 on a two-bid system through e-procurement portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in of Government of Karnataka are invited. The Tender details are DME/2025-26/OW/WORK-INDENT41 Approx. amount Rs.20.00 Lakhs, DME/2025-26/OW/WORK-INDENT42 Approx. amount Rs.18.51 Lakhs, DME/2025-26/OW/WORK-INDENT43 Approx. amount Rs.19.80 Lakhs, DME/2025-26/OW/WORK-INDENT44 Approx. amount Rs.30.00 Lakhs, DME/2025-26/OW/WORK-INDENT45 Approx. amount Rs.20.00 Lakhs, DME/2025-26/OW/WORK-INDENT46 Approx. amount Rs.69.69Lakhs, DME/2025-26/OW/WORK-INDENT47 Approx. amount Rs.18.80 Lakhs, Interested bidders are request to submit their bids on date:13.11.2025 to 27.11.2025the above portal. Further details may be obtained in the below said website and www.bmcrc.karnataka.gov.in.

Sd/- Dean & Director, BMCRC, Ballari

DIPR/Ballari/666/KSMCA/2025-26

Govt. of Karnataka (Zilla Panchayat, Gadag)

Office of the Executive Engineer, Panchayat Raj Engineering Division, Gadag

No.PRED/GDG/PB-3/Tender /2025-26/2648 Date:18-11-2025

E-Procurement tender Notification

Standard Bid Document KW-3

(One Cover & Two Cover System)

Tenders are invited for the following 5 No. of works as per Karnataka Public Transparency Act-2000 Standard Bid Document KW-3 Rules from eligible PWD contractors through e-Procurement Portal Under H/A: 2023-24 5054 CM Special Grant, 2024-25 5054 Flood Damage Grant, of Panchayat Raj Engineering Department can Participate through https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in The work Indent details are as shown below:

Indent Nos: 16653/CALL-2, 16696/CALL-2, 16730/CALL-2, 8934/CALL-2, 20351,

The details of Tender Fees and EMD : Tender Fees and correspondence EMD details with respect to work indent details to be seen as per E-Procurement portal. (Minimum Amount : **50.24** Lakhs) (Maximum Amount: **83.44** Lakhs)

Date for Submission of filled in application and Schedule-B through website is : **19-11-2025** to **27-11-2025** Date of opening of Technical Bid : **28-11-2025** at 16:30 hrs and opening of Financial Bid : **29-11-2025** at 16:30 hrs. Successful eligible bidders of the Financial Bid must personally visit the above office for the difference amount of P.S.D. amount in the form of F.D.R. (as per Rule No.13) within 20 days from the date of publishing of the tender. Since it is electronic system and paper less there is no communication through letters, More details can be had during office hours.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Panchayat Raj Engineering Division, Gadag

DIPR/Gadag/KSMCA/388/2025-26

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that our Client intends to purchase residential apartment bearing Flat No 102 admeasuring 1860 square feet together with undivided share of 892.80 square feet and 1 covered car park and Flat No 201 admeasuring 1750 square feet together with undivided share of 910 square feet along with 1 covered car parking space in Prestige Le Promenade building, built on land measuring 4810 square feet, bearing Municipal No 39 (Old No 4/5), Promenade Road, Municipal Ward No 91 of Pulakeshi Nagar, Bangalore – 05 ("**Land**") more particularly described in the Schedule hereunder, and hereinafter referred to as the "**Schedule Property**".

Any person having any subsisting claim, right, title or interest, in respect of the Schedule Property or any part thereof, in any manner including by way of sale, transfer, assignment, exchange, charge, tenancy, sub-tenancy, lease, sub-lease, license, mortgage, inheritance, share, gift, devise, lien, maintenance, easement, encumbrance, trust, covenant, possession, beneficial interest or pre-emption or under any agreement or other disposition or under any suit or award passed by any Court or Authority, arbitrator, *lis-pendens*, power of attorney, bequest, FSI, development rights, partnership, family arrangement or settlement or otherwise encumbrance of any nature howsoever ("**Claim**"), are hereby requested to respond with documentary proof to the undersigned within 7 (Seven) days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which, it shall be presumed that no such Claim exists and if it existed, the claimant has relinquished such Claim and/or waived their right to exercise such Claim.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

A. Description of Land

Land measuring 4810 square feet, bearing Municipal No 39 (Old No 4/5), Promenade Road, Municipal Ward No 91 of Pulakeshi Nagar, Bangalore – 05

Boundaries

East	West	North	South
Property bearing No 4, Promenade Road and measuring on that side 70 feet	Private property and measuring on that side 89 feet	Premises bearing No 3, Promenade Road and measuring on that side 60 feet	Promenade Road and measuring on that side 61 Feet

B. Description of Flat No 102

Flat No 102 admeasuring 1860 square feet in Prestige Le Promenade building situated on the Land together with undivided share of 892.80 square feet and one covered car park

C. Description of Flat No 201

Flat No 201 admeasuring 1750 square feet in Prestige Le Promenade building situated on the Land together with undivided share of 910 square feet and one covered car park

Dated this 19th day of November 2025

Sd/-
Rajiv Khaitan, Partner
Khaitan & Co LLP
Embassy Quest, 3rd Floor, 45/1, Magrath Road
Bengaluru-560 025, T: +91 80 43397000

GUJARAT ENERGY TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED

GETCO

Registered & Corporate Office, Sardar Patel Vidyut Bhavan, Racecourse, VADODARA - 390 007

www.getcogujarat.com & https:www.nprocure.com

TENDER NOTICE NO. ACE (P&C): Tender No. 17: 2025-26

A] PROCUREMENT: E-3065,3068:- (1) Capacitor Cell, RVT, NCT and Series Reactor for year 2025-26 as per specification on firm price basis., (2) FOAC Cable as per latest specifications & Schedule-A, on firm price against tender No. ACE (P&C)/ SE (P&C)/ EE (Proc)/ II/ E-3068/ FOAC/ 2025-26/ AM & Project / Maintenance, link line, contingency & UG Cable lines.

[B] CIVIL: ACE (P&C)/ CONTRACTS/ CIVIL - 571, 572:- (1) Extension of Control Room Building & construction of foundations, Cable Trench for proposed 66kV Main Bus-2 under R&M Plan under 2025-26 at 220kV Kapadvanj S/S under Nadiad AM Division under Nadiad AM Circle.,(2) Construction of Foundations, Cable trench, RCC road, Yard PCC / Metal spreading & ancillary civil work for New 220/66 kV TR-05 Bay & 66kV Feeder bays for Link lines at 220kV Ichhapore SS Dist. Surat under Navsari Circle.

[C] LINE: ACE (P&C)/ CONTRACTS/ E-387/ TL/ 220kV/ S&E:- Supply, Erection, Testing & Commissioning 220 kV D/C Jamkhambhalia (ISTS) –Kuvadiya line – 14.600 km on M/C towers with AL-59 (61/3.50) conductor and 48F OPGW cable on turnkey basis.

[D] Substation: ACE (P&C)/ Contracts/ E-381:- 66kV class substations for Operation and Maintenance contract for 585 Nos. of substations for a period of three years against Tender no. ACE (P&C)/ Contracts/ E-381/SS/66kV O&M.

Above tenders are available on website **www.getcogujarat.com** (for view and download only) & tender.nprocure.com (For view, download and online tender submission).

Note: Bidders are requested to be in touch with our website till opening of the tenders.

Date: 19/11/2025 **Add'l Chief Engineer (Procurement & Contracts)**

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED

(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)

No:CEE/T(O)Z/TKR/SEE/AEE-2/2025-26/ 9027-28 Date:14-11-2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION

(Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only)

KPTCL invites bid against **Bid Enquiry No: KPTCL/CEE/TR(O)Z/TKR/SEE(O)/AEE-2/2025-26/Bid Enq-0066** for "Providing 02 no's of additional 11kV PCVCB switchgear for load bifurcation at 66/11kV sub-station **Halurameshwara** under 220kV RS & SS Chitradurga. Including Supply of Equipments /Materials, Erection (Including Civil Works), Under **Partial Turnkey Tender Basis**, (Excluding the Major Materials Such As Switchgears Will Be Supplied by KPTCL, Testing & Commissioning will be carried out by KPTCL) & other allied works".

The bids will be received through Electronic Mode Only. The details regarding participation in the E-tendering process can be obtained by logging on to KPTCL website **http://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** with hyperlink "E Procurement KPTCL" or **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **20.11.2025** Other details can be obtained from the Office of the undersigned during Office hours.s

Sd/- Chief Engineer, (Electy.,) Transmission(Operations) Zone, KPTCL, Prasarana Bhavana, 1st Floor, Tumakuru 66/11kV S/s Premises,Tumakuru-572103.

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA (PUBLIC WORKS, DEPT.)

No. PWD/BGM/TND/TA/AE/2025-26/5003 Date:18.11.2025

-ITEM RATE TENDER NOTIFICATION(KPP PORTAL):-

The Executive Engineer, PWD Belagavi Division Belagavi invites item ratetenders from the eligible contractors registered in KPP Portal in Public Works Department under KW-2.3&4 Standard tender documents for a work under 3054 SH Road Maintenance, 3054 MDR Road Maintenance, 5054 SH Improvements, 4059 Departmental buildings total 5 number of works with minimum and maximum tender amounts of Rs.28.76 Lakhs and Rs.3500.00 Lakhs respectively and minimum and maximum EMD amount of Rs. 57,600/- and Rs.27,63,800/- Part-1:Tender receipt Date is on 27.11.2025 up to 4.30 PM , Technical Bid Opening Date is on 28.11.2025 after 4.45 PM Part-2 and Pre-qualified tender: Tender receipt Date is on 28.11.2025 up to 4.30 PM and Technical Bid Opening Date is on 29.11.2025 after 4.45 PM, Part-3: Tender receipt Date is on 06.12.2025 up to 4.30 PM and Financial Bid Opening Date is on 08.12.2025 after 11.00 AM,For more information contact the office of the undersigned and www.Kppp.karnataka.gov.in after 18.11.2025.(Note:1) If no bids received, 3 days One Time auto extension activated.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Public Works Department. Belagavi Dn. Belagavi.

DIPR/BGM/RO-NO-1345/KSMCA/2025-26

PM SHRI JAWAHAR NAVODAYA VIDYALAYA, YENIGADALE, CHIKKABALLAPURA DISTRICT

Email: jnvychikkaballapura@gmail.com Phone No: 9179495757

WALK-IN-INTERVIEW

PM SHRI JAWAHAR NAVODAYA VIDYALAYA, Chikkaballapura District, Karnataka invites eligible candidates to appear for a Walk in Interview on 24-11-2025 (Monday) at 10.00 am at the office of the undersigned for the appointment to the following posts **1. TGT – Science**, **2. Librarian** Posts are Purely on Contract basis for the session 2025-26, Consolidate Payment **Rs.34125/-** Per month **3. Judo Coach 4. Football Coach** on Part time and Payment Rs.**1250/-**Per session. **1. Essential Qualification for the post (TGT Science):** Four years integrated degree course from NCTE recognized university with at least 50% marks in the concerned subject as well as in the aggregate including B.Ed. component. OR i. Bachelors/Honours Degree from a recognized university with at least 50% marks in concerned subject, combination of subjects and in aggregation. ii.B.Ed. Degree from NCTE recognized institution/University with at least 50% marks. iii. Qualified in the CTET (Paper-II) Conducted by CBSE. **2**. Essential Qualification for the post (**Librarian**): Bachelor's Degree in Library Science/ Library and Information Science from a recognized Institution/ University with at least 50% marks. **3. Essential Qualification for the post (Judo& Football Coach):** Post Graduate degree/ bachelor's degree/ Diploma/ certificate course with specialization.

Note: Interested candidates may attend the interview along with original certificates with one set of Xerox (Self attested). No TA/DA shall be provided for attending the walk-in interview.

Sd/- Principal

DIPR/CHIKKABALLAPURA/RO:268/KSMCA/2025-26

BANGALORE-MYSORE INFRASTRUCTURE CORRIDOR AREA PLANNING AUTHORITY

No. 5, Second Floor, Looplane, Race Course Road, Bengaluru - 560009. Phone: 080-22341230/35 E-mail: bmicapa@gmail.com

No:BMICAPA/CLU-01/15/2025-26/1992 Date: 18-11-2025

PUBLIC NOTICE

(UNDER SEC 14(A) OF KTCP ACT, 1961)

Smt Kempamma W/o Late Narayanappa.E, Sri Srinath.N S/o Late Narayanappa.E and Sri Gangaraju.N S/o Late Narayanappa. E have applied to this Authority seeking to shift the proposed 18.29 m Master plan road in approved Master plan in Sy.No.6/11 extent of 00A-12.08G of GangasandraVillage, Kengeri Hobli, Bengaluru South Taluk, as there is existing road passing on northern side of the property as per village map, Survey sketch and as per ground reality. Hence Applicant have requested to consider the proposed Master Plan road under Cartographical error and Change of land use of Sy.No.6/11 of Gangasandra Village, Kengeri Hobli, Bengaluru South Taluk with total extent 0Acre-12.08Guntas out of which 0Acre-7¼ Guntas extent from agriculture land use to "Commercial" purpose and 0Acre-5¼Guntas extent from proposed 18.29m (Traffic and Transportation) land use to "Commercial" use under Sec 14(A) of KTCP Act 1961. Applicants have stated that the Change of Land use and shifting of 18.29m road proposed in masterplan, under Cartographical error and same is sought in the interest of public as mentioned below

1) Since there is existing road on the Norther side of the property, if the Masper plan road is implemented, then there would be two road near to each other. Hence proposed Master plan road need to be shifted as per village map and existing road.
2) By developing the Commercial development in the above said lands, the poor and middle class people will get shops at reasonable price and Job opportunities.
3) During the development works there will be employment opportunity for labourers.
4) Surrounding areas will be developed by developing the Commercial development in the above said land.
5) By the development of Commercial areas the Government will get the revenue in the form of various taxes.

DIPR/CP/3873/AAA/2025-246

Sd/- Member Secretary, B.M.I.C.A.P.A., Bengaluru.

CAUVERY NEERAVARI NIGAMA LIMITED

(A Government of Karnataka Enterprises)

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER,

No. 2, K.C. Division, Kollegal-571440, Chamarajanagar District, Phone : 08224-252287

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

No. 16/2025-26 Dated : 15-11-2025 (Through KPP Portal Only)

On the behalf of the Managing Director, CNNL, Bangalore, the Executive Engineer, CNNL, No. 2, KC Division, Kollegal, the under signed invites tender for the work of **"Construction of bridge to connect village road to burial ground belongs to SC community across Suvarnavathi river near Maddur village of Yelandur taluk"** from Registered in eligible contractors for the Amount put to Tender : Rs. **322.51 lakhs;** EMD: **Rs. 4.84 lakhs;** Tender Processing Fee: As per KPP-Portal. The contractor have to submit his tender through online KPP-Portal only. More information can be had from web site: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** Last date of any queries: **21-11-2025** up to at **4.00 PM,** Last date for receipt of completed tender and EMD : **24-11-2025** up to at **5.30 PM.** Date of opening of Technical Bid : **26-11-2025** at **10.30 AM.** Date of opening of Financial Bid : After approval of Technical Bid. Any other details required can be obtained from office of the under signed during office hours.

No: DIPR:CHANAGAR:504:2025-26

Sd/- Executive Engineer, CNNL No. 2, KCD, Kollegal

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA

BALLARI MEDICAL COLLEGE AND RESEARCH CENTRE, BALLARI.

Reg.No:205/1995-96-Recognized by Medical Council of India, New Delhi vide No:MCI-57(3)/79-Med/1912, Dtd.16-04-1979

e-mail-ids:directorbmcrcbellary@gmail.com, website : https://vims.karnataka.gov.in

NO. BMCRC/GNL-3/36 FC, C 52/Tender/383/2025-26

Date:14.11.2025.

e-TENDER NOTIFICATION

The following works for the construction Civil Works as shown below at BMCRC, Ballari are invited under the K.T.P.P Act 1999-2000 on a two-bid system through e-procurement portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in of Government of Karnataka are invited. The Tender details are DME/2025-26/OW/WORK-INDENT48 Approx. amount Rs.53.50Lakhs, DME/2025-26/OW/WORK-INDENT49 Approx. amount Rs.48.46Lakhs, Interested bidders are request to submit their bids on date:14.11.2025 to 28.11.2025 inthe above portal. Further details may be obtained in the below said website and www.bmcrc.karnataka.gov.in.

Sd/- Dean & Director, BMCRC, Ballari

DIPR/Ballari/668/KSMCA/2025-26

BANGALORE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED

BESCOM

(Wholly Owned by Government of Karnataka Undertaking)

CIN - U04010KA2002SGC030438

TENDER NOTIFICATION

(Through KPP Portal)

BESCOM invites tender against **Indent No: BESCOM/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT642** for Supply, install, configure, commissioning and maintenance of backup storage appliance with all required software license & accessories along with backup software for all ESCOMs of Karnataka.

(1) Date & Venue of Pre-Bid meeting : 25.11.2025, 11:30 AM at Chamber of GM-IT, BESCOM, 5th Floor, Belaku Bhavana, Corporate Office, K. R Circle, Bengaluru. **(2) Last date of Receiving Queries/ Clarification :** Queries if any may be sent to **gmit@bescom.co.in** on or before 25.11.2025, 4:00 PM. **(3) Last Date of Submission of bids :** 19.12.2025, 4:00 PM.

The Tender can be obtained from **19.11.2025, 4.00 pm** through KPP portal website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** Aspiring Bidders need to register on KPP portal. Further Bidders can take assistance with KPPP help desk contact numbers +91-8046010000, +91-8068948777 or e-mail at **support@eprochelpdesk.com.**

For electricity related complaints call : 1912
Download BESCOM Mithra Mobile APP

Sd/- The General Manager (ICT&MIS), BESCOM

BENGALURU NORTH CITY CORPORATION

Office of the Executive Engineer Dasarahalli division, MEI Layout, Bagalagunte, Bangalore–560073.

No: BNCC/EE/DD/TEND/01/2025-26 Date: 18.11.2025

INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT)

(SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION) (Two Cover System) KW-4 (Through **GOK** KPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** only)

The Executive Engineer Dasarahalli Division BNCC invites tenders on behalf of the Commissioner, BNCC, Bengaluru from eligible Tenderers for the works detailed in the table below.

Sl No.	Name of the works
	For General Category Works
1.	Development and Improvements of Ward Roads and Drains in Dasarahalli Sub Division & Shettyhalli Sub Division And Construction of Sub divisional Office Building in Bagalagunte ward no.14 in Dasarahalli division in BNCC under CMIDP 2025-26 Est. Cost: ₹.1300.00 Lakhs EMD: Rs.15,00,000/- (1.00 lakh through e-payment (NEFT) balance Rs.14.00 Lakhs through BG/FDR, BG /FDR should be submit before opening of Technical bid)
2.	Improvements and Asphalting to Selected Arterial, Sub Arterial, connecting Roads and other Roads in Dasarahalli division in BNCC under CMIDP 2025-26 **Package-1** Est. Cost: ₹.1150.00 Lakhs EMD: Rs.15,00,000/- (1.00 lakh through e-payment (NEFT) balance Rs.14.00 Lakhs through BG/FDR, BG /FDR should be submit before opening of Technical bid)
3.	Improvements and Asphalting to Selected Arterial, Sub Arterial, connecting Roads and other Roads in Dasarahalli division in BNCC under CMIDP 2025-26 **Package-2** Est. Cost: ₹.1090.00 Lakhs EMD: Rs.15,00,000/- (1.00 lakh through e-payment (NEFT) balance Rs.14.00 Lakhs through BG/FDR, BG /FDR should be submit before opening of Technical bid)
4.	Improvements and Asphalting to Selected Arterial, Sub Arterial, connecting Roads and other Roads in Yeshwanthpura Sub Division in RR Nagara Constituency in BNCC under CMIDP 2025-26 **Package-3** Est. Cost: ₹.1200.00 Lakhs EMD: Rs.15,00,000/- (1.00 lakh through e-payment (NEFT) balance Rs.14.00 Lakhs through BG/FDR, BG /FDR should be submit before opening of Technical bid)
	For SC category works
5.	Improvements to Drains and Asphalting to Chikkasandra road from Hesaraghatta Main Road to Chikkasandra Govt School Est. Cost: ₹.100.00 Lakhs EMD: Rs.1,00,000/- through e-payment (NEFT)
	For ST category works
6.	Resurfacing of Siddeshwara Layout Main Road and 20th Cross Bagalagunte Main road to 10th Cross Defence Colony Main Road in Ward 14 Dasarahalli sub Division Est. Cost: ₹.85.00 Lakhs EMD: Rs.85,000/- through e-payment (NEFT)
	For CAT-II A works
7.	Resurfacing of RR Layout, Nisarga Layout and surrounding area selected Roads in Ward No 12 Shettihalli sub Division Est. Cost: ₹.150.00 Lakhs EMD: Rs.1,50,000/- (1.0 lakh through e-payment (NEFT) balance Rs.0.50 Lakhs through BG/FDR, BG /FDR should be submit before opening of Technical bid)

Calendar of Events : (1) Pre-Bid Meeting will be held on 28-11-2025 at 15:00 Hrs noon. (2) Last Date for uploading the Filled proposals is 04-12-2025 up to 16:00 hours. (3) Date of Opening of Technical Bid is 05-12-2025 after 16:30 hours. (4) Date of Opening of Financial Bid after Approval of Technical BID.

Sd/- Executive Engineer Dasarahalli Division, BNCC

Pilot project begins as GBA prepares paid parking plan

'A trial has already started on M.G. Road under the Central Corporation, and a similar pilot project is likely to begin soon in Yelahanka in the North Corporation, based on DULT findings'

Rishita Khanna
BENGALURU

As Bengaluru's streets choke under unregulated parking, the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) has drawn up a plan to introduce paid parking across all five corporation wards.

As part of this, the authority is also reviewing a previous study by the Directorate of Urban Land Transport (DULT) that mapped and identified space for over 23,200 two-wheelers apart from additional space for car parking and bicycles within the erstwhile Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) limits.

TENDER NO.: JC/ETEND07/2024-25
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Making money: The move is also aimed at steady revenue generation for the newly formed GBA. FILE PHOTO

"To begin with, the GBA will run a pilot project to test how paid parking will work and what new challenges will emerge. A trial has already started on M.G. Road under the Central Corporation, and a similar pilot project is likely to begin soon in Yelahanka in the North Corporation, based on DULT findings. Other corporations will also select one busy stretch each, where parking demand is consistently high to run a one-month trial," an official said, adding that based on results of these projects, the authority will first roll out the system in a few selected wards before expanding paid parking across all wards under the GBA.

The move is also aimed at steady revenue generation for the newly formed GBA. Officials have also been directed to find land where multi-level parking structures can be developed.

Unregulated parking

GBA officials admitted that currently parking remains largely unregulated in the city, with most areas not charging for on-street parking and vehicles spilling onto every available stretch, further reducing road capacity and creating safety concerns for pedestrians.

"The few locations where fees are collected are run by unorganised operations, with no standardised rates, clear parking bays or signage. Even multi-level parking facilities remain underused because free on-street parking continues to dominate without any violations," officials said.

As part of the larger plan, a parking allocation framework is also in process for streets where demand is consistently high.

Officials will assess each road's character – its width, traffic load, presence of bus routes and other on-ground conditions, and use this along with field data to draft a conceptual allocation plan.

This identifies exactly where parking can be permitted and the number of bays that can be created for each vehicle type.

To arrive at the parking action plan, a detailed process will be followed, including reconnaissance surveys, data collection, allocation planning, and stakeholder consultations.

The plan will outline the roads where parking is proposed, including the type of vehicles each stretch can accommodate. Apart from two-wheelers and cars, it also includes space for cycles, shared micro-mobility vehicles, auto stands, loading and unloading zones, and designated pick-up and drop-off points.

Officials said that the intention is to gradually shift more demand to off-street facilities and reduce on-street parking so that limited road space can be freed up for public transport and non-motorised users. The plan also stresses the use of technology for enforcement and management to address manpower shortages and efficiency gaps.

The study flags several major corridors with heavy traffic and dense commercial activity including Koramangala, Ulsoor, Gandhinagar, Hebbal, Yelahanka, Gandhi Bazaar, Basavanagudi, Jayanagar, Vijayanagar, and Chickpete, where better-regulated parking will be crucial.

Senior citizen arrested for sending threat mail to BMRCL

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Wilson Garden police on Tuesday arrested a 62-year-old man for allegedly sending threat mails to BMRCL officials threatening to blow up a metro station.

Based on a complaint filed by Rathish Thomas, 50, Assistant Executive Engineer (Cybersecurity), BMRCL recently, the police tracked down the accused through the IP address and arrested Rajiv from his house in Belthur near Kadugodi.

A probe revealed that the accused is an unemployed diploma holder suffering from a mental disorder and was taking treatment for five years. It also revealed that he was divorced 15 years ago. He was living alone in a rented room and his family members, friends and relatives were helping him with every day essentials.

The police had registered the FIR on November 15, following permission from a city court. They had first registered a non-cognisable report (NCR) following a complaint on November 14 by BMRCL.

According to the FIR, on November 13 at 11.25 p.m. the official email of BMRCL received a mail and the accused threatened to blow up a metro station if his ex-wife was "tortured by metro employees after duty hours."

The threat was declared a hoax by the police and an investigation was launched after the case was booked under Section 351 (criminal intimidation) of the BNS.

According to the police, the accused had a printing press that shut down years ago due to losses. He doesn't have any children and since the separation, he stayed alone. Contrary to what was suggested in the email, his wife didn't work at BMRCL. When his phone was checked, around 50 random email addresses, some of news channels and newspapers, of the police and politicians, were recovered. All those have been blocked, a police officer said.

Techie killed for asking back loan, body buried in house

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 30-year-old software engineer who went missing from Attibele was found murdered and buried inside the house of his cousin in Andhra Pradesh.

The deceased has been identified as Srinath, a native of Kuppam in Andhra Pradesh and a resident of Nerluru near Attibele. Srinath worked in a tech company and lived with his wife and four-year-old daughter.

Missing case

The Attibele police, based on a missing case, tracked down the accused and arrested Prabhakar, a plumber and Srinath's cousin, and his friend Jagadish, a distant relative, from their hometown on Monday.

ILLUSTRATION: SEBASTIAN FRANCIS

A probe revealed that Prabhakar had borrowed ₹40 lakh from Srinath promising to invest the money and get him high returns, but failed to even return the principal amount. When Srinath recently demanded his money back, Prabhakar allegedly hatched a plan to eliminate him, said the police.

He called Srinath to Kuppam saying he would return the money. Srinath informed his wife and left for Prabhakar's house.

Struck with hammer

After reaching the house, Srinath once again asked Prabhakar to return the money. Prabhakar allegedly picked up a hammer and struck Srinath on the head, killing him on the spot, said the police. With the help of his friend Jagadish, Prabhakar dug a pit inside the same house, buried the body, and covered it.

He then pretended to not know when Srinath's wife asked about his whereabouts.

When Srinath did not return home after two days, his wife filed a missing person complaint at the Attibele police station.

Contradictory remarks

Based on her complaint, the police picked up the duo for questioning and during interrogation, Prabhakar and Jagadish gave contradictory statements.

Under sustained questioning, the duo allegedly confessed to the murder and revealed that the body was buried inside the house in Kuppam.

A team of the Attibele police, along with the Kuppam tahsildar, visited the spot and exhumed the buried body.

The accused have been arrested and further investigation is under way.

Biryani sellers who stole high-end bikes arrested

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Mahadevapura police have arrested two persons who worked as biryani vendors during the day and allegedly turned into serial offenders at night, stealing high-end motorcycles parked outside houses.

Biriyani business

The accused have been identified as Manu Kumar and Sachin. The police said the duo had married two sisters, and had been running a biryani pushcart business for nearly 10 years.

Explaining the modus operandi, the police said that the accused during the day used to sell biryani on a handcart. After dark, they roamed residential areas and broke the locks of expensive bikes parked outside houses. The stolen bikes were used for joyrides with their wives, the police revealed.

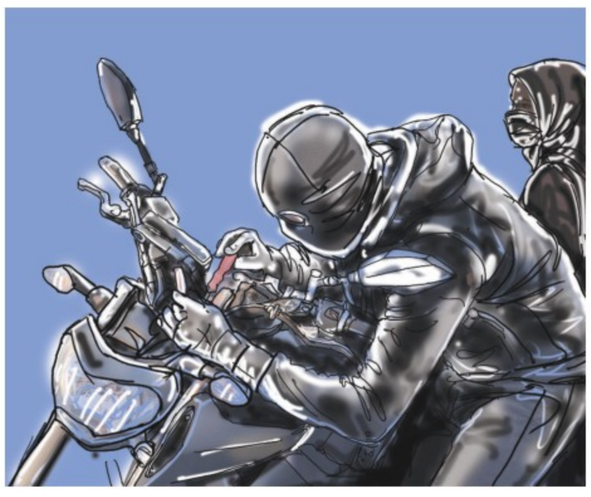

ILLUSTRATION: SEBASTIAN FRANCIS

Investigation also found that the wives knew their husbands used to steal bikes, yet continued to enjoy the rides with them.

With their arrest, the police have have recovered 20 stolen bikes worth ₹37 lakh. The accused are habitual offenders with several cases of bike lifting pending against them in Ramamurthynagar, Mahadevapura, HAL, and Whitefield police station limits, the police added.

Graduate arrested

In another case, the Bandepalya police arrested a 30-year-old BTech graduate allegedly involved in over 15 bike theft cases in and around the city .

The accused Rishav Chakravarthy, a native of West Bengal, had come to the city six years ago and was working in a tech company. He was sacked from his job on the charge of stealing and he allegedly started stealing parked bikes, a police officer said.

The police had arrested the accused earlier in a bike theft case and as a reformative measure, counselled him and got him a job in a tech company, but the accused was terminated again. The police had even placed him in a paying guest facility, but the accused was removed from there after he allegedly stole a phone from one of his PG mates, the police said.

With no job and place to live, the accused would move around the city and steal parked bikes and use them until the fuel was over. He would park the stolen bike on the roadside before stealing the next bike, the police alleged.

The police suspect that he is suffering from kleptomania and needs treatment.

Based on his confession, the police recovered 8 bikes worth ₹ 6.5 lakh.

ED raids gaming firms in Bengaluru, Delhi and Gurugram

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bengaluru zonal office of the Enforcement Directorate (ED) raided online gaming companies for alleged cheating and money laundering through cryptocurrency.

According to officials, the premises of two online gaming companies, owning Winzo app and Gamezkraft (pocket52.com), operating out of Bengaluru and Delhi, were searched.

A total of 11 premises were searched, out of which five are in Bengaluru, four in Delhi, and two in Gurugram.

According to the ED: "Search is being carried out on the corporate office premises of these gaming operators along with residence of respective CEO/COO/CFO."

Some persons have filed FIRs accusing these gaming companies of manipulating the algorithm of the app.

If you think Bengaluru traffic is bad, just try your hand at controlling it

The Hindu reporter gets an opportunity to man one of the city's busiest traffic junctions

Chetan B.C.
BENGALURU

Only a special occasion can get you out of bed early during winter in the Garden City. Yet, on Tuesday morning, I sprang awake

I dreamt of reflective vests, shrill whistles, and the thrill of flagging down rule-breaking motorists. As the Bengaluru Traffic Police invited citizens to experience what it feels like to manage peak-hour traffic, I enrolled for duty at one of the city's most infamous bottlenecks: Iblur junction.

At 8 a.m., my colleague N. Ravichandran and I inched along Outer Ring Road. By the time we reached Iblur around 8.30 a.m., the day already felt long.

The briefing

Bellandur inspector Nagappa C. and assistant sub-inspector A. Krishnappa handed me a reflective jacket and briefed me for 20 minutes. By 9 a.m., I was ready to live the dream, only to realise they weren't giving me a whistle. I decided I would rely on my voice instead.

Six routes converge at this junction, fed by traffic from Sarjapur, Silk Board and Yemlur. Donning the jacket, I began managing vehicles moving from the Silk Board side towards Sarjapur.

BJP MLA S. Suresh Kumar advising motorists to follow traffic rules at Bashyam Circle on Tuesday. K. MURALI KUMAR

A biker in a black jacket looked me up and down and smiled oddly as he waited for the green signal. I refocused on the lights, checking if it was time to stop the Sarjapur stream.

A long line of pedestrians stood waiting for me to clear their way, some already attempting to cross through heavy traffic. I tried to politely ask them to step back. They didn't.

One woman in her 50s depended entirely on me to stop vehicles. As soon as the signal turned red, I rushed to the middle of the road, halted traffic, and let them cross. Before I could breathe, honking erupted again, from a different direction. It wasn't a warning anymore; it was frustration.

It took six full signal cycles for me to grasp the juggling act: keeping vehicles in their lanes.

Managing everything smoothly proved impossible. Persistent honking drilled my ears, exhaust settled on my head, coughing became constant, and my legs felt heavy.

An ambulance suddenly appeared in my lane. I froze. ASI Krishnappa rushed forward, stopped traffic, and cleared the path. No sooner had it passed than the honking resumed.

Minutes later, a car brushed against another, and both stopped in the middle of the road. Mr. Krishnappa and I ran to handle it.

Hunger set in. I asked Mr. Krishnappa when they usually eat. He said breakfast comes only after peak hours, around 11.30 a.m. Reading my mind, he suggested a coffee break.

The second half of duty wasn't any easier, but at least I now understood the rhythm.

Like the city itself, Bengaluru's traffic is a vivid mix of languages, behaviours, ages and vehicle types.

By the end of the session, I realised that lower-ranked officers are the true foot soldiers and traffic police personnel had one of the most thankless jobs.

Before leaving, I asked Mr. Krishnappa how he handles the stress every day. He smiled warmly and said his job keeps him satisfied.

Rajajinagar MLA gets in on the act too

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Rajajinagar MLA S. Suresh Kumar too stepped into the role of a traffic police officer at Bhashyam Circle on Tuesday. Mr. Kumar said he took up the responsibility after being impressed by the initiative of the Bengaluru Traffic Police. He said he wanted to understand the daily challenges faced by traffic police and observe how traffic signals and enforcement work on the ground.

He was seen moving around, stopping vehicles moving recklessly, and guiding pedestrians.

In Delhi study, ragas in the operation theatre cut anaesthesia use

Even under anaesthesia, the brain doesn't shut down; the auditory cortex still registers sound; as surgery begins, the body's stress systems stir and the levels of cortisol and other hormones rise, pushing up blood pressure to cope with the strain; the person feels nothing but the body still braces; music seems to mellow this response

Anupama Chandrasekaran

At first glance, the photograph looks like a scene from a science-fiction film or one of those viral, digitally altered images. A woman lies calm on an operating table under bright white lights, a headset snug over her ears. But it's real and was taken inside a hospital in New Delhi more than a year ago.

It's a snapshot of an unusual clinical trial by a group of anaesthesiologists from Lok Nayak Hospital and Maulana Azad Medical College. They wanted to investigate if music flowing through headsets during a minor surgery could soften the blow of strong medicines.

"All our surgeries are in completely new environments for patients and we give them general anaesthesia to produce unconsciousness," Sonia Wadhavan, director professor of Anaesthesia and Intensive Care at Maulana Azad Medical College, said. "But since all these groups of drugs come with some amount of side effects, we asked: if we integrate music therapy with our anaesthetic agents, can it help us reduce the requirement of these drugs?"

Dr. Wadhavan and her team designed a randomised controlled trial, which is a kind of experiment where people are split into groups by chance, like drawing names from a hat, to see if something truly works. One group listened to slow, soothing ragas for the entire surgery; the other did not. The results were telling: people who heard the music needed 15% less anaesthetic. Their heart rates stayed steady, their blood pressure held firm, and stress hormone levels fell. The study suggested that music helps patients heal with less strain and less medicine.

Every drop of drug and every minute saved can ease costs, speed recovery, and free beds. DR. FARAH HUSAIN/SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Soundtrack under the scalpel

The study, published in the October 2025 edition of the journal *Music and Medicine*, ran over 11 months. Fifty-six adults planning gallbladder removal, a common surgery to take out the small organ that holds digestive fluid used to break down fats, volunteered for this research.

The patients were split into two groups: one listened to soft flute and piano music during surgery; the other wore identical noise-cancellation headphones and were in silence.

The music the researchers chose wasn't random. It featured two Hindustani ragas: the bright, uplifting tones of Raga Yaman and the calm, soothing notes of Raga Kirvani. They chose these ragas because they believed the tones could gently steer the body's "fight or flight" system, which raises heart rate and blood pressure under stress, towards a calmer and steadier state.

"Since the ability to hear remains intact even under anaesthesia, we used music therapy to study its effect on the sympathetic system and stress modulators like cortisol," Dr. Wadhavan said.

And it worked. Patients who listened to the music needed, on average, about 15% less propofol, a fast-acting anaesthetic that puts you under in seconds and keeps you pain-free and perfectly still. Not only that: their levels of cortisol, a hormone the body releases when it's stressed, were lower. The participants also needed fewer painkillers and had steady blood pressure throughout the surgery.

"It was a eureka moment," said Tanvi Goel, principal investigator and anaesthesiologist at Lok Nayak Hospital and Maulana Azad Medical College. "The music group not only required less anaesthesia but their stress levels were significantly lower."

Even under anaesthesia, the brain doesn't shut down. The auditory cortex still registers sound, catching rhythm and tone. As surgery begins – with its pokes, pricks, and cuts – the body's stress systems stir. The levels of cortisol and other hormones rise, pushing up blood pressure and blood sugar to cope with the strain. The person feels nothing but the body still braces. Music seems to mellow this response, releasing endorphins and oxytocin to steady the heart, ease stress, and support healing.

> Since all these anaesthetics come with side effects, we asked: could music reduce the dosage required?
>
> **SONIA WADHAVAN**
> PROFESSOR OF ANAESTHESIA AND INTENSIVE CARE AT MAULANA AZAD MEDICAL COLLEGE

"It's non-pharmacological, low-cost, and safe," said Farah Husain, co-investigator and a certified music therapist. "All it needs is a Bluetooth device and a pair of headphones. There's no side-effect, only potential benefits."

'Complementary approaches'

Alex Street is a senior research fellow at the Cambridge Institute for Music Therapy Research in the UK. He studies how music stirs the brain, the nervous system, and emotions, and how it can be used in real therapy.

"What needs to happen is medicine always has to have a non-medical adjunct," Dr. Street said.

"Complementary approaches like music can reduce the need for medications that often have nasty side effects."

For instance, fentanyl is a synthetic opioid often used to control severe pain during surgery. But just 2 mg of fentanyl can kill an adult human. It has become the leading cause of death for Americans aged 18 to 45, surpassing car accidents and gun violence. This is part of the opioid crisis, driven by the overuse of powerful painkillers. The epidemic shows why gentler ways to ease pain and stress are needed now more than ever.

In the Lok Nayak Hospital study, patients who listened to soothing music needed less fentanyl during surgery, signalling that non-drug approaches could reduce reliance on powerful painkillers.

Dr. Street added a practical reminder: that patients still need to hear the surgical team, even when the music plays.

"You can't just block everything out with noise-cancelling headphones," he said. "The patient needs to be able to hear what people are saying."

The Delhi team now hopes to test their music experiment with more surgeries and larger groups. In a country where hospitals overflow and resources are stretched thin, every drop of drug and every minute saved can ease costs, speed recovery, and free beds.

That image of a patient on an operating table with headsets on may soon feel less like science fiction and more like standard care.

anupama.c@thehindu.co.in

THE GIST

People who heard the music needed about 15% less anaesthetic, their heart rates stayed steady, their blood pressure held firm, and stress hormone levels fell; this suggested that music helps patients heal with less strain and less medicine

According to the researchers involved, music therapy is non-pharmacological, low-cost, and safe; all it needs is a Bluetooth device and a pair of headphones; there are no side effects, only potential benefits

Patients who listened to soothing music also needed less fentanyl, a potent opioid, during the surgery, signalling that non-drug approaches could help reduce reliance on powerful painkillers

BIG SHOT

A plantation in the Amazon rainforest during a Greenpeace flyover amid the COP30 climate summit, near Centro Novo, Brazil, on November 13. Such plantations replace diverse native forest with a monoculture, causing massive biodiversity loss, reducing the forest's capacity to hold carbon, and disrupting rainfall. REUTERS

QUESTION CORNER

Caged birds sing

Q: Do animals have mental health problems?

A: Many scientists believe at least some animals can have problems that are similar to human mental health disorders. We can't ask them how they feel, so we look for changes in behaviour, body chemistry, and brain activity that match what we see in stressed or unwell humans.

Some companion animals make for clear examples. Some dogs develop separation anxiety: they panic when their humans leave them alone, bark continuously, destroy objects or harm themselves. Others have been known to display behaviour resembling depression after a bereavement, becoming withdrawn, inactive, and losing their appetite. Veterinarians sometimes use anti-anxiety or antidepressant drugs, along with training and changes in the home, to help them.

Wild and captive animals have also been known to show patterns of concern. Zoo primates kept in bare or crowded enclosures may pace in circles, rock back and forth, and/or bite themselves. Captive elephants often sway for hours. Parrots in small cages sometimes pluck out their feathers. These repetitive, seemingly purposeless actions are called stereotypies and are often linked to long-term stress and frustration.

Brain and hormone studies have also suggested continuity with humans. Stressed animals have raised levels of stress hormones such as cortisol and have changes in brain chemicals such as serotonin.

This said, scientists are careful not to simply copy human labels like "depression" or "schizophrenia" onto animals. Instead, the main idea is that animals can suffer mentally, especially in poor environments, and that the evidence supports better housing, social contact, and enrichment to protect their welfare.

Parrots in small cages sometimes pluck out their feathers, an action linked to long-term stress. Representative image. OJASWI PRATAP SINGH/UNSPLASH

For feedback and suggestions
for 'Science', please write to
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with the subject 'Daily page'

19 arrested in CCB raids across city; drugs worth ₹7.7 crore seized

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In a series of coordinated operations, the Anti-Narcotics Wing of the Central Crime Branch officials arrested 19 people, including 14 foreign nationals, and seized 4.904 kg of narcotic substances worth ₹7.7 crore in different raids across the city.

A team of officials raided a location within Suddaguntepalya police station limits and arrested a Nigerian woman and recovered 760 g of MDMA crystals worth ₹1.52 crore.

In another operation, the CCB unit raided a residence in B. Narayanapura, Mahadevapura, and detained five local drug peddlers, and recovered 600 g of hydro ganja valued at ₹60 lakh.

In a similar operation, the CCB officials arrested a woman from Kenya and recovered 2.044 kg of MDMA worth ₹4.08 crore from her.

Another unit of CCB officials also intercepted suspicious international parcels at the Foreign Post Office under K.G. Nagar limits and seized 1.5 kg of hydro ganja.

State police to launch 'Sanmitra' initiative to combat drug abuse

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In a major step towards curbing the growing menace of drug addiction among the youth, the Karnataka State Police Department has rolled out *'Sanmitra'* (a good friend), an initiative aimed at providing sustained support, rehabilitation, and monitoring for individuals struggling with substance abuse. The programme seeks to address the issue not just through enforcement, but with empathy, guidance and structured rehabilitation.

Director-General and Inspector-General of Police, M.A. Saleem, in a circular issued recently, said the initiative is designed to "transform lives" by focusing on root-cause identification, continuous mentorship, and confidential handling of affected individuals and their families.

Stressing the need for a more comprehensive strategy to tackle drug-related offences, Mr. Saleem said that policing should not end with arresting the accused, seizing contraband, filing chargesheets and moving to the next case.

He emphasised that a holistic and continuous monitoring system is essential to ensure that accused persons and addicts do not relapse into drug use or return to criminal activity. According to him, dedicated personnel will be deployed at each station to carry out this monitoring, maintain follow-up reports, and initiate further action when necessary.

Under the initiative, every police station across the State will establish a dedicated *Sanmitra* helpdesk. Officers have been instructed to identify persons battling substance abuse and assign a trained police staff member as a mentor. Their details will be registered confidentially and shared only with senior officers to ensure complete protection of personal information.

Police personnel designated under *Sanmitra* must maintain constant contact with affected individuals, engage with their families, and coordinate with mental health professionals to track monthly progress.

The social circle of each individual will be examined discreetly, and any friends displaying signs of substance abuse will be reported immediately to the Station House Officer for medical intervention.

Special emphasis has been placed on supporting students. The police have been advised to avoid uniformed visits or formal interactions on college grounds. Instead, officers will approach students as friends, helping them reintegrate into mainstream education without stigma.

Station heads must collect progress reports from *Sanmitra* personnel every two weeks and submit confidential monthly reports to the respective SP or DCP in sealed covers, according to the circular.

At the next level, SPs and DCPs will compile quarterly assessments for submission to IGPs, DIGs, or Police Commissioners.

An annual operational report will be submitted every December.

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For any further details about the admissions process, please contact:
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SOCIAL SCIENCE	- M.A./B.A B.Ed.	HINDI	- M.A./B.A B.Ed.
ENGLISH	- M.A./B.A B.Ed.	KANNADA	- M.A./B.A B.Ed.
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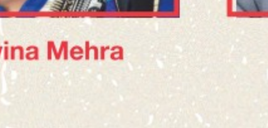

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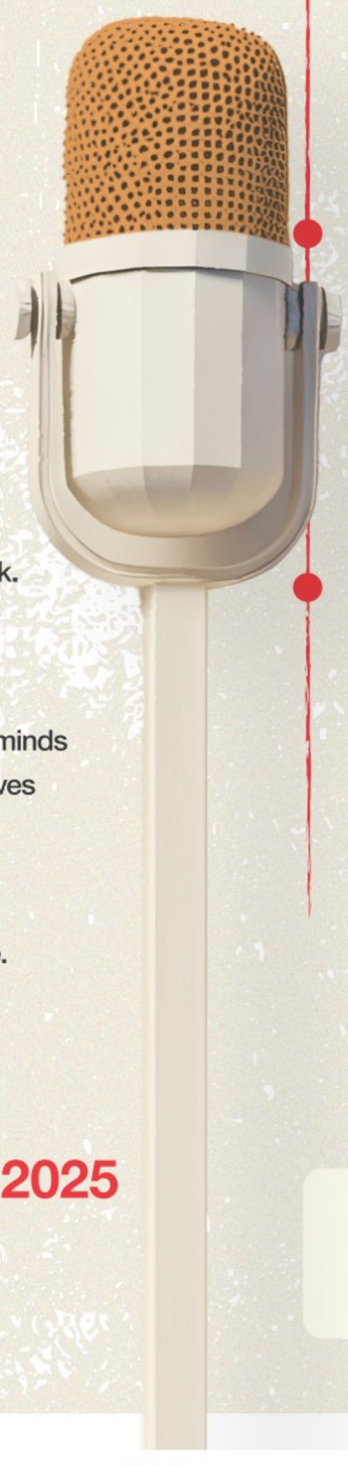

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4:40 PM to 5:30 PM

Dr. Ambrish Mithal

Shwetambari Shetty

Shivam Vij

The Flight of Wealth
5:35 PM to 6:25 PM

Sanjaya Baru

Devina Mehra

Narendar Pani

The New Laws of Manu: Why The Poor Don't Kill Us
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Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Marathwada farmers who committed suicide from Jan.-Oct.

899 Of these deaths, 537 farmers took their lives in the six months when floods caused massive damage to crops, official data shows. The State government has announced a package of nearly ₹32,000 crore as compensation for the affected farmers in Marathwada. PTI

Loan approved by the Asian Development Bank to Sri Lanka

300 In $ million. The funds will be disbursed in three tranches of $100 million each for financial sector stability and reform, strengthening macroeconomic resilience and transparency, and a sustainable tourism sector development programme, the finance ministry said. PTI

Number of bonded labourers rescued in Maharashtra's Beed

31 All the rescued persons hail from Jalgaon district and belong to the tribal community. They were subjected to forced labour and threats for three months in the Majalgaon taluka of Beed. Following a complaint, various agencies launched a collaborative operation and rescued the victims. PTI

Number of Pakistan drones neutralised by the BSF in 2025 so far

255 The drones came from Pakistan for smuggling heroin and weapons, a senior Border Security Force (BSF), Punjab Frontier official said. He said the BSF has strengthened surveillance in the wake of the fog season ahead to check smuggling activities from across the border. PTI

Number of Romanians evacuated after Russia attack on Ukraine

200 The evacuation of two villages — the first ever in Romania as a result of the Ukraine war— came after the attack set fire to a ship carrying liquefied petroleum gas. Since invading Ukraine, Moscow has attacked Ukrainian ports. AFP

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What can local bodies expect from the 16th FC?

What do the 73rd and 74th constitutional amendments mandate? What have multiple State Finance Commission reports recommended? How have Union Finance Commissions failed to bring about substantial changes, especially with respect to performance-linked grants?

EXPLAINER

V. N. Alok

The story so far:

On November 17, the 16th Finance Commission (FC) submitted its report to the President of India.

What are the expectations?

Main expectations include a percentage share for vertical transfer of resources from the Central revenue pool to the States for the next five years and the formula of its horizontal distribution among States. This is mandated under Article 280 of the Constitution.

What about panchayats, municipalities?

The other expectation is the recommendation to improve the finances of panchayats and municipalities as mandated under Article 280 (3) bb and c.

Like many other federations, local governments are the ones rendering essential public services, including drinking water, sanitation, public health, rural roads, maintenance of community assets etc. For this purpose, panchayats and municipalities are mandated to collect certain taxes like property tax, advertisement tax and non-taxes such as market fee, toll etc. However, a huge gap between revenues and expenditure responsibilities can be seen across States and Union Territories (UTs).

As per the 73rd and 74th constitutional amendments, State governments have the power to assign revenue handles and expenditure responsibilities to various rungs of panchayats and levels of municipalities. Due to this reason, there is a wide variation in fiscal powers of panchayats, municipalities across States.

In an ideal scenario, functional responsibilities should be closely linked to the financial powers delegated to local governments. However, there is no separate list for either functional responsibilities or revenue handles that should be assigned to panchayats and municipalities. While the 11th and 12th Schedules enumerate on 29 broad subjects for panchayats and 18 matters for municipalities respectively, they are merely illustrative and not binding. Moreover, it is the Union and State governments that are expected to design vertical schemes on economic development and social justice, while local governments implement them.

A major revamp: Collector S. Saravanan taking part in a gram sabha meeting held at Adiyanoothu panchayat near Dindigul, Tamil Nadu, on October 11. KARTHIKEYAN. G

State governments tend to assign responsibilities to local governments without concomitant revenue handles or officials. As a result, panchayats and municipalities bear the financial brunt which not only affects their development but operational efficiency as well.

What is the role of the SFC?

Every five years, States constitute a State Finance Commission (SFC) which can make recommendations to State legislature. The recommended devolutions by SFC could be, *inter alia*, that panchayats and municipalities should have a share in the revenue pool of the State; be assigned revenue handles; receive both conditional and unconditional grants-in-aid; that local governments be assigned civic functions and functionaries; and various other administrative measures. More than a hundred SFC reports have been submitted across States, but hardly a few have been respected.

In such a situation, the local government must count entirely on fiscal transfers from the Union government. For this purpose, the Constitution mandates the Union Finance Commission (UFC) to suggest measures to augment State finances for local governments.

What did the previous UFCs do?

So far, recommendations of six UFCs have been implemented. However, they weren't able to quantify the resource requirements of local governments, and made ad hoc arrangements and recommended lump sum grants. The 13th UFC, however, suggested calculating the grant as a percentage share in the union tax divisible pool. The 13th UFC did this consciously after a round of consultations with top legal experts and at the demand of the Union Ministry and several State governments. Neutrality to inflation was the first advantage of the proposal and share of local government in high buoyancy of union tax proceeds was the second major benefit. Sadly, the subsequent UFC took a complete U-turn and recommended lump sum grants. The 15th UFC followed its immediate predecessor in its route of fiscal transfers to local governments. This was not the only discontinuity in the recommendations made by the three successive bodies. The other major anomaly was in the form of conditional grants. In their zeal to reform panchayat and municipal administration, all these UFCs divided the grants into two components – basic and performance-based. While basic grants were unconditional, performance grants were tied to certain conditions identified by these UFCs as reform instruments. However, each UFC ensured to discontinue the line of reform initiated by the previous UFC. To illustrate, the 13th UFC stipulated six conditions for performance grants. None of the conditions could be fulfilled by most States. The 14th UFC refused to acknowledge any merit in the previous reform agenda and recommended fresh conditional performance grants. The conditions put forth by the 15th UFC were again of a different variety.

The 16th UFC, it is expected, must have gone beyond the oft-beaten approach and assessed the resource requirements of 2.7 lakh panchayats and about 5,000 municipalities, which would enable them to act as institutions for economic development and social justice.

V. N. Alok is professor at the Indian Institute of Public Administration.

THE GIST

- As per the 73rd and 74th constitutional amendments, State governments have the power to assign revenue handles and expenditure responsibilities to various rungs of panchayats and levels of municipalities.
- Every five years, States constitute a State Finance Commission (SFC) which can make recommendations to State legislature.
- So far, recommendations of six UFCs have been implemented. However, they weren't able to quantify the resource requirements of local governments, and made ad hoc arrangements and recommended lump sum grants.

What changes are planned for the plant variety Act?

Why are farmers' groups concerned? What are some of the amendments that are being discussed?

A. M. Jigeesh

The story so far:

Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan said that the Centre will amend the Protection of Plant Variety and Farmers' Rights Act (PPV&FRA Act), incorporating suggestions from stakeholders.

Have consultations started?

A committee headed by eminent agriculture scientist R.S. Paroda, appointed by the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Authority (PPVFRA), has started stakeholder consultations on the amendments. PPVFRA Chairman Trilochan Mohapatra told *The Hindu* that the committee will examine in detail the premises for amending the law and hold wide consultations with all stakeholders about the amendments. The committee will review various provisions of the Act in light of inherent deficiencies, present day challenges, and to further bolster farmers' interests. Prof. Mohapatra said the present Act has completed two decades, and in that time the sector has witnessed various technological and scientific advancements as well as changes in trade aspects and farmers' requirements.

What are major topics of discussion?

Though officials maintain that consultations are at the preliminary stage, discussions with farmers include amendments to the definition of 'variety needs' that could be modified to include 'combination of genotypes' so that it could be at par with the draft Seeds Bill of 2019. It was also proposed to include seedlings, tubers, bulbs, rhizomes, roots, tissue culture plantlets, synthetic seeds and other vegetatively propagated material in the definition of seed. There is a proposal to define the term "institution" occurring in the definition of 'breeder' to include both public and private establishments in the seeds sector. The committee also has questions for stakeholders on the Distinctness, Uniformity and Stability (DUS) test. Stakeholders are being told about the importance of trait and the necessity to include it in DUS guidelines. Further, there are discussions to define "abusive act" so that acts such as producing, selling, marketing, exporting and importing a variety which has the same or an identical denomination of another variety can be made punishable.

What are the concerns?

The Samyukt Kisan Morcha (non-political) founding leader K.V. Biju, who attended the meeting, said the Act should have provisions to register all community-developed seeds. He said that seeds which went through DUS tests should not be allowed to register under a farmers' or an individual's name. "This is to prevent the misuse of the ownership of the seeds in future by private companies and to avoid monopolisation of seeds. The government should make it a priority that seeds developed by the farmers should remain under community control," he said. Mr. Biju added that there are suspicions of the misuse of the DUS test. He said farmers' groups suspect that in the case of *njavara*, a paddy seed from South India, proper DUS testing was not followed before registration. Policy analyst Shalini Bhutani said small peasantry is still largely outside of the system and many of them are not aware of techno-legal issues. She said that as per their biocultural practices, they have been approaching seeds as a shared material. "This does not fit into the Intellectual Property Rights framework of granting exclusive economic rights over seeds," she said adding that many countries are operationalising open-source ideas to keep their local plant varieties outside of the IPR system. She said there have been attempts to arm twist developing nations so that domestic laws are compliant with the International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants. On another matter of seed quality, "despite provisions for accountability for non-performance of IP-protected propagating materials in the original Act, the criteria for compensating farmers are not yet detailed out in its Rules," she said.

THE GIST

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KEONICS gets pre-orders for 1,500 units of its new AI-computer

KEO is Karnataka's practical answer to the digital divide, says Minister Priyank Kharge

Mini Tejaswi
BENGALURU

The Karnataka government has received fresh pre-orders for the delivery of 1,000 units of KEO, its newly launched compact, AI-ready personal computer, and this is in addition to an existing pre-order for 500 units from some other businesses.

It is learnt that the government has been receiving several enquiries on KEO, while city business personalities like Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw and Kris Gopalakrishan are believed to have placed an order for 1,000 units, cumulatively. KEO is priced at ₹18,999.

The KEO device form factor was revealed at Bengaluru Tech Summit where it was formally unveiled by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah. Following the launch, KEO is also being showcased to tech enthusiasts, students, startups, and the public at the summit. Pre-orders can be placed at www.keonext.in

Speaking at a media conference, Sharath Kumar Bache Gowda, chairman, KEONICS, said priced affordably, the government believes that KEO (Knowledge-driven, Economical, Open-source) was Karnataka's solution to a challenge that has been slowing down learning and productivity among students, small businesses, and households.

New tech: The KEO device form factor was revealed at Bengaluru Tech Summit where it was formally unveiled by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah. SUDHAKARA JAIN

BENGALURU TECH SUMMIT

'Inclusive innovation'

Addressing the media at the tech summit, Priyank Kharge, Minister for Electronics, IT & BT, said: "KEO is Karnataka's practical answer to the digital divide. It reflects the State's commitment to inclusive innovation and accessible computing. It is not a luxury device; but an inclusion device. Affordable mass computing will allow every student, small business, and household to participate fully in the digital economy."

KEONICS was leaning into its legacy and mission of driving innovation in electronics. By adopting an open-source RISC-V stack, KEO would strengthen the State's commitment to accessible, locally adaptable, home-grown computing solutions, commented Mr. Gowda.

Divide persists

According to data provided by KEONICS, fewer than 10% of Indian households own a computer, and Karnataka stands at only 15%, far below the needs of modern education and digital livelihoods. While smartphones are widespread, studies show that computers, essential for academic work, coding, online classes, and hybrid learning are still beyond the reach of the majority of the population. Over 60% of Indian students reported being unable to participate in online learning owing to the lack of a device, directly contributing to higher dropout rates.

On the specs, Mr. Gowda said KEO is built on open-source RISC-V processor with a Linux-based OS, priced affordably, to make intelligent computing accessible at the grassroots empowering citizens across State.

It comes with 4G, Wi-Fi, ethernet, USB-A, and USB-C ports, HDMI, and audio jack support and comes fully loaded with learning, programming and productivity tools. It also features an on-device AI core, enabling AI to run locally without internet access. It comes preloaded with BUDDH, an AI agent trained on the Karnataka DSERT syllabus to assist students even in low-connectivity regions, he said.

When global innovation finds a home in Bengaluru and Karnataka, it scales for the world: Siddaramaiah

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

"When global innovation finds a home in Bengaluru and Karnataka, it scales for the world," Chief Minister Siddaramaiah promised a global audience gathered at the opening of the 28th edition of Bengaluru Tech Summit, the State's annual tech exposition, on Tuesday. The event is scheduled between November 18 and 20.

"Bengaluru, which has been celebrated as the Silicon Valley of India in the last three decades, now stands as something much larger, a global epicentre of innovation, talent, research, and technological leadership," said Mr. Siddaramaiah while addressing an audience that comprised lawmakers, diplomats and ambassadors from 16 counties, innovators, technocrats, industry experts, and and researchers.

"As we stand ahead of the next digital revolution, driven by AI, quantum, biotech, space, and green tech, Bengaluru Tech Summit 2025 is Karnataka's invitation to the world to co-create a future that is bold, humane, and transformative," he said in his inaugural address.

"Karnataka's rise as a technology powerhouse was no accident," said the Chief Minister, adding that it was the result of visionary policies, deep institutional strength, and an ecosystem that nurtured creativity and excellence at every stage.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar inaugurating Bengaluru Tech Summit 2025, on Tuesday. SUDHAKARA JAIN

Knowledge ecosystem

The Chief Minister said the State was powered by one of the world's strongest knowledge ecosystems, with Bengaluru becoming synonymous with entrepreneurial energy. The State, which has 85 universities, 243 engineering colleges and nearly 1,800 ITIs, and over 16,000 startups, has attracted nearly 47% of India's total startup funding. Highlighting productivity and employability, he said, "The State has a low unemployment rate at 4.3%."

Mr. Siddaramaiah pointed out that Karnataka is India's largest R&D and product development hub, and contributes 42% of the country's IT exports, valued at over ₹3.2 lakh crore, growing at a rapid 27% year-on-year. The State is home to 550 Global Capability Centres (GCCs), which is nearly one-third of India's total. Over 400 of the Fortune 500 companies have operations in Bengaluru, also a major hub for semi-conductors, aerospace, defence, biotech, electronics manufacturing, animation & gaming, and deep-tech, he added.

Social justice

He said this edition of BTS, on the theme 'Futurise: To shape the unknown, scale the unimaginable and shift the world forward', was designed to capture the essence of Karnataka's collective mission. "With 'Futurise', we reaffirm our belief that technology must drive social good, economic justice, sustainable development, inclusion, and prosperity for all," Mr. Siddaramaiah said.

Continuing on the theme of inclusitivity, he said, "A defining feature of our approach is inclusivity. Through the 'Beyond Bengaluru' initiative, we are consciously decentralising our technology economy by developing Tier-2 cities as the next generation innovation clusters."

This, he said, is not merely an economic strategy, but a commitment to equitable growth. "Every district in Karnataka must have access to the opportunities of the digital age. Every young person, whether in a metro or a small town, should have the chance to build a career in high-value technology and research," he said.

Key role of policies

Emphasising Karnataka's policy thrust, Mr. Siddaramaiah said, "Karnataka launched the country's first IT policy in 1997, and continues this leadership role with new policies.

"At this summit, we are also taking a historic step with the launch of three transformative policies: the Karnataka Information Technology Policy 2025-30, the SpaceTech Policy 2025-30, and the Startup Policy 2025-30."

'India needs to catch up with China 's breakneck speed in innovation'

Mini Tejaswi
BENGALURU

China has moved from imitation to innovation at a breakneck speed, with the country's biopharma share jumping from 5% to 16%, clinical trial from 3% to 28% (response rate), and publications of scientific and clinical data growing fivefold, and that's the speed at which India has to catch up, said Debjani Ghosh, Distinguished Fellow, NITI Aayog.

Ms. Ghosh, formerly president of Nasscom, at a panel discussion on 'Digihealth & Biotech: Emerging Technologies Shaping the Future of Biotechnology' at the Bengaluru Tech Summit 2025 here on Tuesday, observed that every major sector – manufacturing, energy, agriculture, or electronics – was going to become biotech-driven industry.

Visitors at Bengaluru Tech Summit 2025 on Tuesday. SUDHAKARA JAIN

According to her, the global bioeconomy will be valued at $4 trillion from $1.6 trillion by 2030, and India must decide whether it wants to follow or lead. Frontier technologies, AI, programmable biology, quantum, omnicompute, are rewriting how economies function. India cannot afford incrementalism, she said.

Greater agility

"We have to build agility into policy, regulation, and our R&D ecosystem," Ms. Ghosh said.

Also participating on the panel, Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw, chairperson, Karnataka Vision Group on Biotech, and executive chairperson, Biocon Group, said that Artificial Intelligence (AI) has transformed biology from a descriptive science to a design science and it is already helping the industry predict protein structures, design molecules, and speed up vaccine development.

According to her, India's bioeconomy has grown from $10 billion in 2014 to $165 billion today, and it is on track to cross $1 trillion in the 2040s.

"To get there we need sovereign AI capability, domestic semiconductor strength, and GMP (good manufacturing practices) scale biomanufacturing. China now contributes 30% of new global drug molecules and 20% of in-licensed molecules because its regulatory system enables rapid discovery. That is the level of speed India must match," Ms. Shaw said.

Moderating the panel, G.S. Krishnan, president, ABLE, said that Karnataka alone contributed close to 20% to the national bioeconomy and these were the results of the State's policy, subsidised infrastructure, and a steady flow of talent between industry and academia.

"What we're seeing in places like Bengaluru and Hyderabad is the rise of global-scale biotech hubs, ecosystems that can compete with the best in the world and are now bringing in multinational R&D at an unprecedented pace," Mr. Krishnan added.

Product-led growth

Earlier, speaking at a session on 'From India Leapfrogging to Pole-Vaulting', Kris Gopalakrishnan, Infosys co-founder, advocated for a product-led growth. "It is important that professionals think what are the white spaces and how to build products in those areas.''

Echoing similar sentiments, Accel's partner Prashanth Prakash said India should move to creating products and intellectual property rather than just concentrating on coding.

'City is home to about 25 lakh IT professionals'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

"Karnataka did not become an IT giant owing to chance. The government and the private sector have worked together to make it happen," Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar said at the tech summit.

"California has 13 lakh IT professionals while Bengaluru has 25 lakh. This shows the strength of Bengaluru. There are 1.4 crore people in Bengaluru, of which 20% are IT professionals," he added.

Timings
BENGALURU

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 19		
RISE	06:20	SET 17:50
RISE	05:23	SET 17:03
THURSDAY, NOV. 20		
RISE	06:20	SET 17:50
RISE	06:12	SET 17:46
FRIDAY, NOV. 21		
RISE	06:21	SET 17:50
RISE	07:05	SET 18:33

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	29	22
Mysuru	29	18
Bengaluru	26	17

Bengaluru Today
28°C The weather will be comfortable. Night will be slight cool. Chances of light rain and thundershower at few places.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
27°C Morning will be slight cool. Day will be comfortable. Night will be pleasant. Spell of light rain and thundershower may occur.

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THE HINDU
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Fellowship announced for children's literature in Kannada

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Azim Premji University has launched a fellowship to support the creation of original children's literature in Kannada, inviting both new and experienced writers to apply.

The initiative aims to expand the availability of high-quality children's material in the language, covering forms such as stories, poems, plays, biographies, travelogues, and novels

Strong repository

The programme seeks to build a strong repository of Kannada children's literature and comes alongside the university's existing efforts, including Kathavana, its annual bilingual children's literature festival that focuses on introducing children's books into classrooms.

Applicants must submit a proposal along with one writing sample.

A jury will review submissions, and shortlisted writers will receive guidance through workshops to refine their manuscripts before they are considered for publication. Authors whose manuscripts are finalised for publication will receive a fellowship amount of ₹10,000.

Applications must be submitted through the online form, along with an original Kannada writing sample or a detailed summary of up to 1,000 Unicode words, by November 30, 2025.

Queries may be directed via email at kannada.makkalasahitya@apu.edu.in.

City scientists win 2025 Tata Transformation Prize

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The New York Academy of Sciences and Tata Sons on Tuesday announced three scientists based out of Bengaluru as the winners of the 2025 Tata Transformation Prize.

The winners are Padubidri V. Shivaprasad of National Centre for Biological Sciences, and Balasubramanian Gopal and Ambarish Ghosh of Indian Institute of Science for research in food security, sustainability and healthcare, respectively.

The winners were chosen from a pool of 212 nominations spanning 27 Indian States by an international jury of scientists, clinicians, technologists, and engineers. Each winner will receive ₹2 crore to advance their research and scale its real-world impact.

Mr. Shivaprasad's research tries to address the food security challenge by using epigenetic engineering and small RNA-based modifications in rice to enhance stress tolerance and nutritional quality. His engineered rice varieties promise to reduce fertilizer and pesticide dependence, lower production costs, and improve nutrition for millions.

Balasubramanian Gopal

Padubidri V. Shivaprasad

Ambarish Ghosh

Mr. Gopal has developed a green chemistry platform that harnesses bioengineered E. coli bacteria to produce key chemicals used in pharmaceuticals, cosmetics, and agriculture. Integrating Artificial Intelligence with experimental biology, his lab designs efficient enzymes and optimises microbial strains for high yields, without antibiotics or harmful additives. This sustainable technology can replace traditional chemical manufacturing, thus reducing pollution and enhancing domestic production and environmentally responsible bio-manufacturing.

Mr. Ghosh's research looks at cancer treatment using magnetic nanorobots - tiny, helical devices that can be safely guided through the body using magnetic fields. These nanorobots are designed to navigate complex biological environments, deliver drugs directly to tumours, and distinguish cancerous tissue from healthy cells. His team is also creating real-time imaging tools to track and steer nanorobots during treatment.

Power of Indian science

"The scientific advancements achieved by this year's winners – on creating climate-resistant crops, sustainable bio-manufacturing, and targeting cancer with fewer side effects – are the result of years of dedication and sacrifice. Their work is significant for India, and for humanity at large," said N. Chandrasekaran, chairman of Tata Sons.

Nicholas B. Dirks, president and CEO of The New York Academy of Sciences, remarked that the 2025 winners exemplify the power of Indian science to drive meaningful global change.

The Tata Transformation Prize was established to advance innovation and support visionary scientists in India developing breakthrough technologies to address India's most significant societal challenges in food security, sustainability, and healthcare.

The winners will be celebrated at an awards ceremony in Mumbai in December.

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PULSE-CHECK

GETTY IMAGES

The myth of the 'normal': what does your lab report really mean?

Every lab report for continuous variables includes a reference range, which is often mistaken to be the normal range. Laboratories use the term 'reference' because the range is statistical, not absolute. This is why falling outside the reference range doesn't always indicate disease

C. Aravinda

When the U.S. wrestler and actor Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson was in his prime, his Body Mass Index (BMI) was around 33 kg/m², technically 'obese' by World Health Organization (WHO) standards. Yet no one watching him could call him unhealthy. This paradox is one glimpse of how numbers alone can't be used to define good human health.

For many years, the WHO has used universal BMI cut-offs: over 25 kg/m² for 'overweight' and 30 kg/m² for 'obesity'. But research in Asian populations has revealed that even at lower BMI levels, people developed diabetes and heart disease more often. Recognising these ethnic differences in fat distribution, the WHO revised the 'normal' upper limit for many Asian countries to 23 kg/m². Thus, 'normal' health is not fixed or global but a shifting statistical boundary shaped by population data and biological diversity.

The reference range

Every lab report for continuous variables includes a reference range, which is often mistaken to be the normal range. Laboratories use the term 'reference' because the range is statistical, not absolute. This means it's derived from the test results of a large number of individuals. When these values are plotted on a graph, they form a bell-shaped curve, with most results clustering near the average and fewer at the extremes. The reference interval is the central 95% of this distribution, meaning 95 out of 100 healthy people fall within it, while 5% lie outside it. This is why falling outside the reference range doesn't always indicate disease – nor does falling within guarantee good health. It's only a guide, rather than a definitive boundary of normalcy.

Diagnosing disease would be simple if health and illness were cleanly separated, the way India and Sri Lanka are separated by the Park Strait. But biology resembles the Tamil Nadu-Kerala border: fluid and gradual, without a clear point where Tamil-speaking people end and Malayalam-speaking people begin. In the border villages, both languages mingle and one shades into the other. Similarly, no single value separates health from disease with precision.

Consider diabetes: when the fasting blood glucose levels of thousands of people are plotted on a graph, the healthy and the diabetic curves merge smoothly. The diagnostic cut-off of 126 mg/dl wasn't a mathematical discovery but a practical compromise; there's no fixed line beyond which a person suddenly becomes diabetic. Clinicians draw a line only for practical purposes, and assume that beyond that limit, the risk of complications such as diabetic retinopathy rise sharply.

Put another way, all such medical boundaries balance the two concepts of sensitivity and specificity. A lower threshold would detect all true cases but falsely label many healthy ones, increasing the number of false positives; vice versa for a higher threshold. No test in medicine is 100% sensitive and 100% specific at the same time. Since no test is perfectly accurate, the chosen cut-off reflects medical judgment shaped by a disease's severity, prevalence, and social consequences. For serious yet treatable conditions, clinicians prefer caution and accept more false positives; for mild or stigmatising ones, they raise the bar to avoid overdiagnosis. Every cut-off in medicine is thus a negotiation and, for that reason, they must be regularly revisited.

Mathematics of normalcy

Not all biological measures vary equally. Sodium and potassium can vary within very tight limits because even small deviations from this range can disrupt muscle or nerve function. On the other hand, cholesterol and liver enzymes can vary across a wider range of values: their smaller changes reflect only incidental changes, such as the person's water intake on that day. Hormones are even more dynamic, fluctuating with time of day, age, sex, stress, and nutrition. Interpreting the corresponding numbers on a lab report thus demands more than just numeracy. To do so, a health worker must understand when the sample was collected, how it was tested, and what the patient's clinical picture reveals (or has already revealed).

Every reference range is also determined using a particular mathematical process, and understanding this process can allow health workers to make more informed decisions. Among other things, the distribution of the values of a medical variable is assumed to follow the "68-95-99.7" rule. For instance, if health workers collect blood samples from a number of people and find that the average value is 70 and the standard deviation is 10, the rule says that about 68% of samples score 60-80, about 95% score 50-90, and about 99.7% score 40-100. In other words, the rule helps to visualise how 'spread out' the possible values are and how rare it is for a value to fall far from the mean.

The catch here is that not all biological data are symmetrical, that is, fall with equal probability on either side of the mean. For instance, most hormone-related readings are low while a few are extremely high. In such cases, labs select values from the third or the 97th percentiles. For this, they need at least 120 health samples, otherwise their tests won't be reliable.

Local data matters

When we call something "normal," we rarely ask, "normal for whom?".

Laboratory reference ranges are not universal truths but reflect the populations they study. Some parameters, like height, vary widely across gender and ethnicity. A Scandinavian and a South Indian may differ greatly yet both be healthy. People's nutritional and metabolic needs change with age, gender, race, and even occupation. 'Normal' haemoglobin or lipid related values depend on genetics, diet, and the environment. Men have higher red blood cell counts; Africans have lower white cell counts; and Himalayan populations have more haemoglobin. On the other hand, physiological constants such as heart rate or kidney filtration vary little worldwide.

As a result, medical interpretation in India demands that we recognise these differences rather than borrow benchmarks wholesale from the West. Unfortunately, for many common laboratory parameters, including haemoglobin, no large, authoritative Indian reference studies exist. As a result, we risk both over diagnosing and underdiagnosing disease.

Clinical correlates

The reference ranges are not natural: they are statistical constructs that people put together by testing others in particular circumstances, with particular assumptions. At the bottom of every lab report is a line written keeping this fact in mind: "Please correlate with clinical findings." To correlate clinically means to bring a number back into the world of people, that is, to listen to a patient's story, examine them, and interpret the number in their full context.

For example, a high BMI may signal overweight or, on the positive side, increased muscle mass, which is often the case with athletes. Similarly a borderline thyroid reading may reflect an illness or it could be a normal physiological variation. Ultimately, health workers must go in with a measure of humility that focuses as much on the term "range" as on "reference".

Dr. C. Aravinda is an academic and public health physician. The views expressed here are personal.

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

Guillermo Del Toro's 'Frankenstein' is out on Netflix. 'Frankenstein', a 1818 Gothic novel by Mary Shelley, is about a scientist who creates a monster. A quiz on Gothic fiction

Radhika Santhanam

QUESTION 1

Let us start with *Frankenstein*. Mary Shelley wrote the book as part of a ghost story competition with her friends during the wet summer of 1816. The competition was the idea of an English Romantic poet whose line, "The heart will break and yet brokenly live on", features at the end of Toro's *Frankenstein*. Name this friend.

QUESTION 2

The Castle of Otranto, later renamed *A Gothic Story*, is often believed to be the first Gothic novel. Who wrote this novel?

QUESTION 3

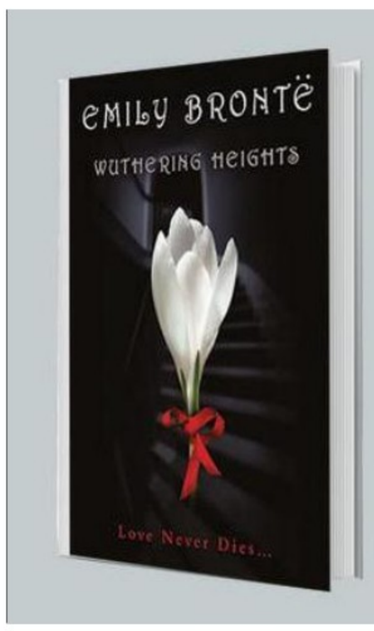
A film starring Gary Oldman, Winona Ryder, Keanu Reeves, and Anthony Hopkins bears the names of both the Gothic novel on which it is based and the author of that novel. Name the film, which won a few Academy awards.

QUESTION 4

An idiom that refers to a person with two sides to their personality — one good and the other evil — is derived from one of the most famous books in English literature. Name this Gothic novel written by a Scottish writer.

QUESTION 5

Usher is an American musician. The name Usher also features in a short story by an American writer published in 1939. This short story was adapted by Mike Flannagan into a miniseries and released on Netflix in 2023. Name the story that is also the name of the show.



Visual question: *Wuthering Heights* was repackaged for a modern teenage audience after the massive success of which series? Clue: the cover borrows the contemporary Gothic design style of the successful series.

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. Lunokhod 1 landed on this lunar sea. **Ans: Mare Imbrium or Sea of Rains**
2. Lunokhod 1 used this to stay warm during the frigid lunar night. **Ans: A polonium-210 radioisotope heater unit**
3. The period for which Lunokhod 1 operated on the moon. **Ans: About 321 days**
4. The length for which Lunokhod 1 travelled on the lunar surface. **Ans: 10,540 metres (6.55 miles)**
5. Number of high-resolution panoramas Lunokhod 1 sent to earth. **Ans: 206 high-resolution panoramas**
Visual: Name the mission depicted here. **Ans: Luna 17 (which carried the Lunokhod 1 rover)**
Early Birds: Siddhartha Viswanathan| Tom Alan Faith| Arun Kumar Singh| Parimal Das| Sudhir Thapa

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know Your English

S. Upendran

"How do you pronounce t..a..n..t..a..l..i..z..e?'"

"The first syllable 'tan' is pronounced like the word 'tan'. The 'a' in the second syllable sounds like the 'a' in 'China'. And the final syllable 'lize' is pronounced like the word 'lies'."

"I see. And the stress is on the first syllable, I suppose?"

"That's right! Do you know what TANtalize means?"

"I have no idea."

"When you tantalize a person you show him or offer him something that he wants. And when the person becomes excited you disappoint him by not giving it to him."

"In other words, it's like teasing a person or an animal."

"I guess you could say that. In the talk yesterday, the speaker tantalized us with tales of adventure."

"Can I say my neighbour uses fish to tantalize the stray cats in our neighbourhood?"

"You certainly can. Here's another example. Tantalized by the prospect of winning a car, my neighbour bought ten raffle tickets from my cousin."

"Meaning, the thought of winning a car excited your neighbour?"

"That's right!"

"The possibility of finding a cure for AIDS has tantalized scientists."

"That's an excellent example. Sujatha gave Ramesh a tantalizing smile before she walked out of the classroom."

"Our school came tantalizingly close to winning the tournament."

"I don't think your school came tantalizingly close to winning anything. By the way, the word 'tantalize' can be spelt with a 'z' or an 's'. Both are acceptable."

"I see. But tell me what...."

"....do you know that the word 'tantalize' has a story behind it?"

"Really? Tell me all about it."

"The word 'tantalize' is actually from the word 'tantalus'. Tantalus was the name of a King. He made the mistake of revealing some of the secrets of the gods to man. To punish him, the mighty god, Zeus, made Tantalus stand in a river. The water came up to the chin of Tantalus. Above his head all kinds of fruit dangled."

"What kind of punishment was that? Tantalus had water to drink and fruit to eat!"

"He didn't have anything actually."

"What do you mean?"

"You see every time Tantalus tried to drink the water, the water level went down. He couldn't manage to drink even one drop of water."

"And I suppose every time he tried to eat the fruit, the fruit would go up."

"Exactly! The water level used to go lower and lower and the branches of the tree which contained the fruit would go higher and higher. Even though Tantalus was surrounded by fruit and water, he always remained hungry and thirsty."

"Poor Tantalus. Everything that he wanted was just kept out of reach. I think I understand why tantalize means what it does."

"That's good."

Published in The Hindu on September 22, 1998.

Word of the day

Brindled:
having a grey or brown streak; a pattern or patchy colouring, used especially of the patterned fur of cats

Synonym: tabby

Usage: *I saw his brindled cow in the meadow.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/brindledpro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /'bɹɪndəld/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

Committee recommended buying mechanical sweepers, not renting them

GBA renting 46 mechanical sweepers at ₹613 crore for 7 years raises hackles in Bengaluru

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A demonstration by a mechanical sweeper machine in front of Vidhana Soudha, in Bengaluru.

The Karnataka Cabinet recently approved a proposal to hire 46 self-propelling mechanical sweeping machines for seven years at a cost of ₹613 crore. The decision has raised hackles, with many arguing that buying these machines would work out far cheaper.

Buying preferred

It has now come to light that a three-member technical committee had recommended against renting the sweeping machines. Renting could be considered only as a last option if the civic body is unable to invest capital on buying 46 vehicles at once. However, the Chief Engineer of GBA opted for renting the vehicles.

The Hindu has a copy of the technical committee's report and minutes of the meeting involving the Chief Engineer, GBA.

The terms of reference (ToR) given to the technical committee had three options: Buy sweeper machines and maintain them, rent vehicles and operations for seven years or buy vehicles and outsource operations for seven years.

The technical committee was of the opinion that buying sweeper machines and operating them, providing maximum flexibility in how they are used, was the best option. The second best option was buying these machines and outsourcing their operations. The committee was of the opinion that renting these machines can be considered as the last option if the civic body did not have funds for the capital expenditure for buying the required number of machines at once. It even said that if the vehicles are rented, the technical specifications of the vehicles and overseeing every machine would be difficult.

GBA decided to rent

However, minutes of a meeting chaired by Chief Engineer, GBA, notes that Boston Consulting Group raised several concerns regarding buying machines and operating them with in-house resources, like 'high upfront capital expenditure and limited in-house human resources in GBA'. Moreover, introducing upgrades or new services would be challenging if the purchased machines require such modifications. The option would also likely result in long-term O&M issues, ultimately compromising service quality, BCG stated.

"A detailed analysis of various models revealed that purchasing mechanical sweeping machines and outsourcing operations and maintenance (O&M) would be the most economical option mathematically. However, practical experience suggests that government-purchased machines might not be well-maintained by O&M contractors, who may not be incentivised to perform optimally owing to limited risk exposure for deviations from Key Performance Indicators. (KPIs). Additionally, the significant upfront capital expenditure in the first year would pose a financial burden on municipalities," the MoM noted.

In the hiring model, the government's risk regarding enforcement of key performance indicators (KPIs) is reduced, as these can be rigorously enforced. Additionally, this model eliminates the need for upfront capital expenditure, providing a more financially manageable solution for the government, the meeting concluded, though it noted that the 'cumulative rental expenses could exceed the cost of ownership, and other alternatives'.

'No big difference'

However, the government order approving the proposal states that there is no significant difference in the net present value when vehicles are bought by the GBA and O&M contracted out for seven years, and renting these vehicles for seven years, to justify renting them.

The document further shows that Patna, Pune, Mohali, and Bhubaneswar had leased self-propelled sweeper machines in the range of ₹946/km to ₹1,432/km. The cost finalised for Bengaluru is ₹894/km.

Opposed

Despite the technical committee recommending the GBA to buy the mechanical sweepers, renting them at such exorbitant costs has drawn the ire of many.

BJP State president B.Y. Vijayendra said that there were already 26 mechanical sweepers with the GBA gathering dust and the Congress government wants 46 more vehicles, renting them at a whopping cost of ₹613 crore, while buying them will cost far less. "Congress is trying to make money even sweeping the streets of Bengaluru," he said.

JD(S) leader Nikhil Gowda has said, "Though the self-propelled sweeper machines are available in the market in the range of ₹1.13 crore to ₹3 crore, GBA inexplicably wants to rent their services for ₹1.9 crore per year for seven years. This is not bad math. This is math murdered, buried in broad daylight."

Christ University hosts two-day conference in city

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Christ University hosted a two-day international conference titled "Global Engagements: A Historical Perspective from Ancient to Modern Times and Future Prospects" on November 13 and 14, bringing together over 100 scholars, diplomats, and policymakers.

With 52 paper presentations and experts from leading Indian institutions, the event explored India's diplomatic traditions from ancient statecraft to contemporary strategic challenges. Chief Guest A.A. Chandradasan sparked a debate with his remarks on colonial cultural influence. Justin Oxin Bhaskar emphasised strengthening India-ASEAN ties.

14 illegal PG facilities sealed; East City Corporation launches trade licence drive

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The East City Corporation has launched a crackdown on paying guest (PG) facilities operating in Bengaluru without valid trade licence and violating Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs).

A team of officials inspected several places across residential areas and found 14 PG facilities operating in violation of zoning rules and failing to comply with conditions prescribed under the GBA Act, 2024. These 14 PGs were sealed.

East Zone Commissioner D.S. Ramesh said that health officials have been directed to take stringent action against illegal establishments and simultaneously conduct a special drive to streamline the issuance of trade licences.

Further, to promote transparent and citizen-friendly services, the East Zone conducted a special trade licence campaign from November 10 to 15 across its 17 ward offices.

During the drive, 466 business owners paid a combined fee of ₹25.52 lakh under the *Single Window System* and received their trade licence on the same day, without any involvement of intermediaries, according to the East City Corporation Commissioner.

The corporation has introduced a mechanism to issue a trade licence on the day of application, provided applicants submit key documents, such as a commercial rental agreement and electricity bill.

Special camps are being organised in commercial areas to further expedite the process.

Health advisory to Sabarimala pilgrims

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Karnataka's Health Department on Tuesday issued an advisory to pilgrims from the State heading to Sabarimala about precautions to follow to keep themselves safe from amoebic meningoencephalitis (PAM) caused by Naegleria fowleri, sometimes called the "brain-eating amoeba".

The advisory states that the amoeba is found mainly in warm freshwater sources and mud, and does not spread from person to person or from drinking contaminated water. The advisory cautions people to use nose clips or hold the nose tightly to prevent the water from entering while bathing in stagnant water, saying the Naegleria fowleri is highly virulent, entering through the nose and reaching the brain, causing the serious, fatal disease. People have been advised to visit the nearest hospital if they experience symptoms such as fever, headache, nausea, neck stiffness or behavioural disorders within seven days of contact with the water.

Saudi Arabia bus crash: 2 from State among dead

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI/KALABURAGI

Two persons from Karnataka were among the 45 indian pilgrims who were killed when a bus carrying passengers from Makkah to Medina collided with an oil tanker near Madinah in Saudi Arabia on Monday.

Rahmat Bee, 80, a resident of CMC Colony in Mailoor, Bidar, had travelled from Bidar to Hyderabad on November 9 and flew to Makkah with her relatives for the Umrah pilgrimage. After completing the pilgrimage, she was on her way to Medina when the accident occurred.

Her grandson, M.D. Sohail, told mediapersons that Saudi authorities were currently not permitting the transportation of mortal remains to India. He said that other family members had reached Hyderabad and were exploring possibilities of travelling to Saudi Arabia.

Abdul Ghani Shirahatti, 55, a resident of Ganesh Peth in Hubballi, who was working as a driver at a hotel in Dubai, was among those who died on the spot in the collision. The Hubballi police are collecting more details.

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01 Australia - 13 Days
Sydney : Blue Mountain, Wollongong. Melbourne : Penguin Parade, Great Ocean Road.
Cairns : Kuranda, Great Barrier Reef. Gold Coast : Seaworld, Crystal Castle & Shambhala Gardens.
Brisbane.
Dates: 2026: JAN 11, 25. FEB 8, 15, 22. MAR 8, 15, 22. APR 5, 19. 7022259008

02 Dubai - 6 Days
Dhow cruise, Dubai city, Abu Dhabi City, Burj Khalifa, Desert Safari,
Dubai Frame, Global Village.
Dates: 2025: DEC 11, 18. 2026: JAN 8, 15, 29. FEB 5, 12, 26. MAR 5, 12, 26 7975001525

03 Singapore – Malaysia – Thailand 4 / 5 / 7 / 8 / 11 / 15 Days
Singapore: Universal Studios, Sentosa Island, Wings of Time,
Cable Car, Singapore City Tour, Gardens by the Bay, Sea Aquarium.
Malaysia: Kuala Lumpur City Tour, Putrajaya, Genting Highland.
Thailand: Pattaya, Coral Island, Alcazar Show, Nong Nooch Village, Bangkok City Tour,
Safari World & Marine Park.
Dates: 2025: DEC 5, 12. 2026: JAN 9, 16, 23. FEB 6, 13, 20. MAR 6, 13, 20. 7483366378

04 Cambodia – Vietnam 4 / 6 / 7 / 10 / 12 Days
Cambodia: Phnom Penh, Siem Reap, Angkor Wat, Tonle Sap, Thousand Lingas River.
Vietnam: Hanoi, Ninh Binh, Halong Bay, Da Nang, Hoi An, Ba Na Hills, Mekong Delta,
Ho Chi Minh City, Cu Chi Tunnels.
Dates: 2025: DEC 4, 11.
2026: JAN 8, 15, 29. FEB 5, 12, 26. MAR 5, 12, 26. 7022259007

05 Bali – The Land of Gods 5 / 7 / 9 Days
Denpasar, Nusa Penida Island, Kintamani, Ubud, Garuda Wisnu Cultural Park, Tanah Lot,
Beratan Lake, Ulun Danu, Taman Ayun, Tanjung Benoa Beach, Uluwatu, Besakih, Tirta Empul,
Lempuyang Temple, Tirta Gangga, Kings Palace, Bat Caves Temple.
Dates: 2025: DEC 1, 15. 2026: JAN 5, 19. FEB 2, 16. MAR 2, 16. 9364104373

06 Naturally Nepal 5 / 9 Days
Lumbini, Pokhara, Phewa Lake, Manokamana, Kathmandu, Bhaktapur, Doleshwar Mahadev,
Royal Chitwan National Park, Janakpur etc
Dates: 2025: DEC 4, 11, 18. 2026: JAN 15, 29. FEB 12, 26. MAR 12, 26. 9364088424

07 Srilanka Ramayana Trails 5 / 7 / 8 Days
Ramayana Temples, Manavari Temple, Munneswaram Temple, Trincomalee, Matale,
Sigiriya Rock Photostop, Kandy, Tooth Relic, Ramboda Hanuman, Tea Factory, Nuwara Eliya,
Ashoka Vatika, Sita Agnipariksha, Bentota Beach, Madu River Safari, Vibhishana Temple,
Colombo City Tour.
Dates: 2025: DEC 4, 11, 18. 2026: JAN 8, 15, 29. FEB 5, 12, 26. MAR 5, 12, 26. 9364104366

08 Andaman Islands - 5 Days
Havelock (Swaraj deep) Island, Port Blair, Cellular jail, Ross Island, North Bay Island
Dates: 2025: DEC 3, 17. 2026:
JAN 7, 21. FEB 4, 18. MAR 4, 18. 7975001525

09 Rameshwaram - Kanyakumari – Thiruvananthapuram 4 Days
Madurai, Rameshwaram, Kanyakumari, Suchindram, Nagercoil, Thiruvananthapuram.
Dates: 2025: DEC 3, 17. 2026: JAN 7, 21. FEB 4, 18. MAR 4, 18. 9364104373

10 Assam – Meghalaya - 7 Days
Guwahati, Kamakya, Kaziranga, Nagaon Maha Mrityunjaya, Shillong, Dawki, Mawlynnong,
Living root Bridge, Cherrapunji, Mawsmai Caves.
Dates: 2025: DEC 10, 17. 2026:
JAN 14, 21, 28. FEB 11, 18, 25. MAR 11, 18, 25. 7022259008

11 Puri - Konark – Bhubaneshwar - 4 Days
Bhubaneshwar, Khandagiri & Udayagiri, Dhauli, Pipli, Konark, Puri, Chilika Lake, Raghurajpur.
Dates: 2025: DEC 10, 17.
2026: JAN 14, 28. FEB 11, 25. MAR 11, 25. 9364104373

12 Madhya Pradesh - 4 / 9 Days
Indore, Omkareshwar, Maheshwar, Mandu, Ujjain, Bhopal, Sanchi, Khajuraho, Jabalpur.
Dates: 2025: DEC 3, 10, 17.
2026: JAN 7, 14, 21, 28. FEB 11, 18, 25. MAR 11, 18, 25. 7022259007

13 Gujarat Temples - 6 / 9 Days
Ahmedabad, Somanath, Porbandar, Dwaraka, Nageshwar, Modhera,
Siddhpur (Mathru Gaya)
Dates: 2025: DEC 3, 10, 17. 2026: JAN 7, 14, 21, 28. FEB 11, 18, 25. 7022259007

14 Royal Rajasthan - 8 Days
Jaipur, Ajmer, Pushkar, Udaipur, Jaisalmer, Desert, Jodhpur.
Dates: 2025: DEC 3, 10, 17.
2026: JAN 7, 21. FEB 4, 18. MAR 4, 18. 7975001525

15 Kashi - Gaya – Ayodhya - 6 / 7 Days
Varanasi, Prayagraj, Gaya, Bodhgaya, Saranath, Ayodhya
Dates: 2025: DEC 3, 17.
2026: JAN 7, 21. FEB 11, 25. MAR 4, 18. APR 8, 22. 9364104366

16 Golden Triangle Tour - 6 Days
Delhi, Mathura, Brindavan, Agra, Fatehpur Sikri, Jaipur
Dates: 2025: DEC 3, 17.
2026: JAN 7, 21. FEB 4, 18. MAR 4, 18. APR 8, 22. 9364104366

Coffee board aims to double production to over 7L tonnes by 2047

Mini Tejaswi
CHIKKAMAGALURU

The Coffee Board of India on Monday said it has set a target to double the coffee production to over 7 lakh tonnes by 2047. India currently produces 3.5 lakh tonnes of Arabica and Robusta varieties of coffee in about 4.05 lakh hectares of land.

Board chairman M.J. Dinesh said: "The board has set an ambitious target to increase our production to 7 lakh tonnes by 2047, when India celebrates 100 years of independence. Our goal is to achieve 15% speciality coffee out of this 7 lakh tonnes.''

According to him, to achieve this production goal, the board has chalked out a comprehensive action plan.

Speaking at the Karnataka Planters' Association (KPA) 67th annual general meeting here, he said about 1 lakh hectares will be brought under cultivation in Odisha and Northeast States like Nagaland. "We will increase land under coffee cultivation in non-traditional areas while we will also boost yield in the coffee heartland in Karnataka,'' Mr. Dinesh added.

He further said three new coffee varieties would be released by the Central Coffee Research Institute (CCRI) based at Balehonnur, during its centenary programme next month. "Over the past century, our scientists have released 30 Arabica varieties and three Robusta varieties. CCRI has one of the best germ plasm of over 400 varieties," he said.

The board was also implementing clonal propagation of Robusta coffee tissue culture plants in collaboration with Jain Irrigation, which may be released by 2026-27, he further added.

Mr. Dinesh said the board was also designing the Indian Coffee Board Sustainability Certification Scheme (INDICOFS), which would offer a distinct global identity for Indian coffees. The board also introduced IndiaCoffee App, to help growers and exporters meet global traceability compliance mandated by the European Union Deforestation Regulation (EUDR) norms, he said.

Speaking on the occasion, Karnataka Energy Minister, K.J. George urged the planters community in the State to replicate the branding success of Araku Valley coffee growers.

Use KSP app: Police

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bengaluru city police have appealed to people, especially women, to make use of its safety initiatives, including the emergency helpline 112 and the newly-developed KSP app, aimed at enhancing security for citizens.

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY

E-AUCTION NOTICE

E-Acuction Notice No. : Com/Lease/SLR/e-Auction/DNR/25/7. The Divisional Railway Manager (Commercial), East Central Railway, Danapur for and on behalf of the President of India invites E-Auction for following works :-
1. Name of the work : e-Auction, for leasing of Parcel space of 3.9/4 tonne of SLRs on per trip basis on payment of lumpsum freight for loading of parcels. 2. Period o contract : 03 (Three) years. 3. Catalogue No. : DNR-PARCEL-25-07. 4. Lot No. : 22361-SLR-F1-RJPB-NDLS-25-1, 12792-SLR-F1-DNR-SC-25-1, 12391-SLR-F1-RGD-NDLS-25-1, 13237-SLR-F1-PNBE-KOTA-25-1, 12296-SLR-F1-DNR-SMVB-25-1. 5. Date & Time fixed for E-Auction : 12:00 hrs. to 13.10 hrs. on 01.12.2025 (Initial Cooling Off Period is 30 minutes & Successive Lot Closing interval is 10 minutes). Lot-wise closing Time can be viewed in e-Auction module of IREPS. 6. Website where complete details of E-Auction is available : www.ireps.gov.in.

Divisional Railway Manager (Comml.)/ ECR/Danapur
PR/1294/DNR/Comml./N/25-26/36

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

Publication of Corrigendum to Tender Notice No.: CAO/CN/BNC/EPC/146/2025 Dated 09.10.2025
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following works:

Item of work	Approx. Value
Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) Agreement for Construction of New Broad Gauge Line Between Chainage 30/500 & Chainage 84/000 Including Railway Electrification, Civil Works, Signal & Telecommunication Works and Electrical General Services between Koratagere (Excl.) and Madakasira (Excl.) stations in Tumakuru-Rayadurga new BG Line Project. **(Tender Ref. No. TK-RDG-EPC-05)**	Rs. 9,92,49,38,175.00

Date of Closing	
Existing	Revised
25.11.2025 (15:00 Hrs.)	05.12.2025 (15:00 Hrs.)

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

Deputy Chief Engineer/Construction/ Works/Bengaluru Cantt.
PUB/651/AAMO/PRB/SWR/2025-26

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Sl. No.	Division	IFT Number	Amount put to tender EMD (in Rs.)	Last Date & Time for Submission of Tender	Date & Time for Opening of Tender
1	South-West-1	BWSSB/EESW-1/TO/PB/ 3965/2025-26, Date: 14.11.2025	Rs.13,94,213/- Rs.35,000/-	27.11.2025 upto 4:00 PM	28.11.2025 after 4:05 PM
2			Rs.17,49,036/- Rs.43,800/-	27.11.2025 upto 4:00 PM	28.11.2025 after 4:05 PM
3			Rs.16,18,307/- Rs.40,500/-	27.11.2025 upto 4:00 PM	28.11.2025 after 4:05 PM
4		BWSSB/EESW-1/TO/PB/ 3965/2025-26, Date: 14.11.2025 (Reserved for SC category)	Rs. 9,65,582/- Rs.12,100/-	27.11.2025 upto 4:00 PM	28.11.2025 after 4:05 PM
5		BWSSB/EESW-1/TO/PB/ 3965/2025-26, Date: 14.11.2025	Rs. 26,72,258/- Rs.53,600/-	27.11.2025 upto 4:00 PM	28.11.2025 after 4:05 PM
6			Rs.14,89,790/- Rs.37,400/-	27.11.2025 upto 4:00 PM	28.11.2025 after 4:05 PM

Sd/- **Executive Engineer (South-West-1)**

The details regarding the tender and participation in the e-procurement process can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** For further details contact the above signed office during the working hours.

DIPR/CP/3883/SA/2025-26

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PUBLIC NOTICE

BEFORE THE SOLE ARBITRATOR
(Appointed by Hon'ble High Court of Madras vide Order dated 16.09.2025 in O.A. No.649 of 2025 & Arb. Appln. No.845 of 2025)
... Claimant
Vs.
Arbitration between:
True Network Alliance Infra Private Limited
(Represented by its Managing Director Mr. K. Ayyappan)
Having office at No.572, 5th Floor, Kaveri Complex, 96, NH Road, Chennai – 600 034
... Respondents

1.M/s Tejas Arts
(A partnership firm represented by its partners
Mr. Sundarvelu &
Mrs. Bhuvaneshwari)
No.12, 6th Main, WOC Road, Shivanahalli, Near Nandana Hotel, Rajaji Nagar, Bangalore – 560 010
2.Mr. Sundarvelu S Partner, Tejas Arts No.1382, 1st Floor, 4th Main, 3rd Cross, Near Ganesha Temple, Prakash Nagar, Bangalore North, Srirampuram, Bangalore – 560 021
3.Mrs. Bhuvaneshwari Partner, Tejas Arts (address same as above)

TAKE NOTICE that by an Order dated 16.09.2025 passed by the Hon'ble High Court of Madras, Mr. P.V. Balasubramaniam, Senior Advocate, No.47/2, Rams Surabhi Apartments, 1st Main Road, R.A. Puram, Chennai – 600 028 (Mobile: 98410 41888 | Email: sradv@pvbalaw.com) has been appointed as the Sole Arbitrator to adjudicate all disputes arising out of the Memorandum of Understanding dated 29.03.2025 executed between the parties.
TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the first preliminary sitting of the Arbitral Tribunal was fixed on 15.11.2025. Communications sent by registered post to the Respondents at the above addresses have been returned undelivered with the postal endorsement "No such person. Return to sender".
TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the next sitting of the Arbitral Tribunal is fixed on Thursday, 20th November 2025 at 6:00 P.M. through Video Conferencing. The Respondents (or their authorised representatives/counsel) are hereby called upon to appear before the Sole Arbitrator on the said date and time either in person or through authorised counsel. The video conferencing link will be sent to the email address furnished by the Respondents. The Respondents are directed to immediately communicate their current address, mobile number, and email ID (and those of their counsel, if any) to the Sole Arbitrator at sradv@pvbalaw.com latest by 19.11.2025, failing which the arbitration will proceed ex-parte and the Respondents shall be bound by all orders and the final award. For any query, the Respondents may contact the Sole Arbitrator at the above email or mobile number.

Dated this 19th day of November 2025
P.V. Balasubramaniam
Senior Advocate & Sole Arbitrator
47/2, Rams Surabhi Apartments, 1st Main Road, R.A. Puram, Chennai – 600 028, Mobile: 98410 41888
Email: sradv@pvbalaw.com

Published at the instance and on behalf of the Claimant through its Counsel
M.S. Niranjhan, Advocate
1A, Vishwakamal, 62/245 R.K. Mutt Road, Mylapore, Chennai – 600 004
Mobile: 94433 34444
Email: m.s.niranjhan@gmail.com

FORM No.3
[See Regulations-15(1)(a)]/16(3)
BEFORE THE HON'BLE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-I
1st FLOOR, TRIVENI COMPLEX, ABIDS, HYDERABAD
T.A. NO. 5 OF 2025
SUMMONS UNDER SUB-SECTION (4) OF SECTION 19 OF THE ACT, READ WITH SUBRULE (2A) OF RULE 5 OF THE DEBT RECOVERY TRIBUNAL(PROCEDURE) RULES,1993
CENTRAL BANK OF INDIA
VS
ASN GROUP HOLDINGS (INDIA) PRIVATE LIMITED & 4 OTHERS

To,
1. Lanco Hills Technology Park Private Limited,
A company registered under the Companies Act, 2013 bearing
CIN: U72200TG2004PTC044097
Having its registered office at: 1st Floor, #99LH, Manikonda, Near Delhi Public School, Hyderabad, Telangana India-500089 Represented by its managing director.

SUMMONS / SUBSTITUTED SERVICE BY WAY OF PAPER PUBLICATION

Whereas, TA NO. 5 OF 2025 was listed before **Hon'ble Registrar on 24.11.2025**, the Applicant filed an Application under Section 19(4) of the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 against you for recovery of an amount of **Rs. 38,86,22,691.30/- (Rupees Thirty-Eight Crore Eighty-Six Lakhs Twenty-Two Thousand Six Hundred Ninety-One and Thirty paise only).**
In accordance with sub section (4) of Section 19 of the Act, you are directed as under:-
(i) To show cause within thirty days of the service of summons as to why relief prayed for should not be granted;
You are also directed to file the Written Statement with a copy thereof furnished to the Applicant and to appear before Registrar on **24.11.2025 at 10:30 A.M.** failing which the application shall be heard and decided in your absence. Given under my hand and the seal of this Tribunal on this the day of November, 2025.
Take Notice that in case of default, the application will be heard and determined in your absence.

By Order
Sd/-
Registrar, Debts Recovery Tribunal – I, Hyderabad

FORM No.3
[See Regulations-15(1)(a)]/16(3)
BEFORE THE HON'BLE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-I
1st FLOOR, TRIVENI COMPLEX, ABIDS, HYDERABAD
T.A. NO. 5 OF 2025
SUMMONS UNDER SUB-SECTION (4) OF SECTION 19 OF THE ACT, READ WITH SUBRULE (2A) OF RULE 5 OF THE DEBT RECOVERY TRIBUNAL(PROCEDURE) RULES,1993
CENTRAL BANK OF INDIA
VS
ASN GROUP HOLDINGS (INDIA) PRIVATE LIMITED & 4 OTHERS

To,
1. ASN Group Holdings (India) Private Limited,
A company registered under the Companies Act, 2013 bearing
CIN: U45200KA2008PTC047600
Having its registered office at: No.1, Atria Institute of Technology Campus, 1st Main, Anand Nagar Bengaluru-560024, Karnataka
Represented by its Managing Director, Email ID: rahul@asnholdings.in

SUMMONS / SUBSTITUTED SERVICE BY WAY OF PAPER PUBLICATION

Whereas, TA NO. 5 OF 2025 was listed before Hon'ble Registrar on 24.11.2025, the Applicant filed an Application under Section 19(4) of the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 against you for recovery of an amount of Rs. 38,86,22,691.30/- (Rupees Thirty-Eight Crore Eighty-Six Lakhs Twenty-Two Thousand Six Hundred Ninety-One and Thirty paise only).
In accordance with sub section (4) of Section 19 of the Act, you are directed as under:-
(i) To show cause within thirty days of the service of summons as to why relief prayed for should not be granted;
You are also directed to file the Written Statement with a copy thereof furnished to the Applicant and to appear before Registrar on **24.11.2025 at 10:30 A.M.** failing which the application shall be heard and decided in your absence.
Given under my hand and the seal of this Tribunal on this the day of November, 2025.Take Notice that in case of default, the application will be heard and determined in your absence.

By Order
Sd/-
Registrar, Debts Recovery Tribunal – I,

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UTTAR PRADESH MEDICAL SUPPLIES CORPORATION LTD.
(A Government of Uttar Pradesh Undertaking)

Tender Notice

Tender Ref. No: UPMSCL/Drugs-242/19 Dated: 15-11-2025

e-TENDER FOR SUPPLY OF EDL DRUGS

Online tenders are invited from licensed manufacturers for supply of EDL drugs to UPMSCL. The details of tender, list of items and Tender Documents are made available on website https://etender.up.nic.in and www.upmsc.in. The last date/time of online submission of the tender documents is 08-12-2025 up to 15:00 Hrs.

Managing Director
UPMSCL Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh
Department of Medical Health & Family Welfare, Uttar Pradesh

Government of Odisha
Higher Education Department
Lokseva Bhawan, Sachivalaya Marg, Bhubaneswar-751001
HE-SCH-PLAN-0059-2025/62446/H.E., Bhubaneswar, Dated: 17/11/2025

ADDENDUM-II

NOTICE INVITING RFP FOR ENGAGEMENT OF STATE PSU/ CENTRAL PSU/ DEPARTMENTAL UNDERTAKING AS PROJECT MANAGEMENT CONSULTANT (PMC) FOR "CONSTRUCTION, REPAIR / RENOVATION ACROSS FIVE STATE PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES, ODISHA UNDER PM USHA.

In continuation to the Request for Proposal (RFP) No. **PM-USHA:01/2025, dated 09.10.2025,** the following addendum is hereby issued.

Sl.No.	Reference	Description	Date
1.	Bid Submission Dateline	Last Date & Time for Submission of Proposal	The last date and time for submission of RFP proposals is hereby extended. The revise dateline for submission of Bids : **28.11.2025, 03:00 PM**

Special Secretary to Govt. & SPD, RUSA/PM-USHA

N-206

KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
49, East Wing, 4th & 5th Floor, Khanija Bhavan Race Course Road
Bengaluru – 560 001. Phone No. 080-22265383 website : www.kiadb.in

IADB/ENGG/ETND-EP-63/2549/2025-26 Date: 18.11.2025

SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER
(Through GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Only)

Turnkey Tender under two cover bid system is invited for the work mentioned below as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and Rules 2000 through electronic procurement from eligible Contractors holding valid Super Grade Electrical License Registered in KCEI & Class-I Civil Contractors License Registered in KPWD, Government of Karnataka who have got adequate financial resources, state of the art technology, suitable construction equipments, technical man power & sufficient past experience for the following work as per the schedule given below:
Name of the Works : Part-A: (a) Construction of SC transmission line using Single side/double side cross arm Monopoles from existing 400/220kV Vasanthanarasapura PGCIL sub-station to Entry point of Vasanthanarasapura Industrial Area (Proposed 220kV CTT location). **(b)** Construction of SC transmission line using Single side/double side cross arm Monopoles from existing 220/66/11kV Vasanthanarasapura KIADB sub-station to Entry point of Vasanthanarasapura Industrial Area (Proposed 220kV CTT location). **Part-B:** Running of 220kV DC 1200sqmm XLPE Copper UG cable from 220kV DC CTT Location (Entry point of Vasanthanarasapura Industrial Area) to the proposed 220/66/11kV GIS/AIS sub-station at Chennai-Bengaluru Industrial Corridor (CBIC) for a distance of 1.890 kms. **Part-C:** Construction of 220kV & 66kV Terminal Bays at existing 220/66/11kV Vasanthanarasapura KIADB sub-station under Self execution basis by KIADB.(2nd Call).
The last date and time of receipt of tender is : **05.12.2025** upto **4.00 pm.**
Applicants May Download Bidding Documents from the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.**

Sd/-
Chief Engineer-1, KIADB Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/3877/Zen/2025-26

यूनियन बैंक Union Bank of India
भारत सरकार का उपक्रम A Government of India Undertaking

BENGALURU – CHANDRA LAYOUT BRANCH
Door No. 1234, 8th Cross, 1st Stage, 2nd Phase, Chandra Layout, Bengaluru, Karnataka – 560040.

DEMAND NOTICE UNDER SEC.13 (2) SARFAESI ACT 2002

Borrower/ Mortgagor: 1. Dr. Nandini Maribasappa Ghante, residing at: No. 420, 1st Main, 3rd Cross, Ideal Homes Township, Rajarajeshwari Nagar, Bangalore - 560098

Enforcement of Security Interest Action Notice – In connection with the credit facilities enjoyed by you with us – Classified as NPA

We have to inform you that your account **563404120000002 and 563406650000321** has been/have been classified as NPA account AS ON **29.10.2025** pursuant to your default in making repayment of dues/instalment/interest. As on date **29.10.2025** a sum of **Rs.27,21,246.67 (Rupees Twenty Seven Lakhs Twenty One Thousand Two Hundred Forty Six and Sixty Seven Paisa Only**) is outstanding in your account/ accounts as shown below.

Name of Facility Amount Due

Sl. No.	Facility/Loan	Limits	Outstanding as on: 29.10.2025
1	Overdraft Mortgage Plus A/c No. 563404120000002	Rs. 29,00,000.00/-	Rs. 23,74,607.67/-
2	UNION HOME 563406650000321	Rs. 3,93,000.00/-	Rs. 3,46,639.00/-
	Total	**Rs. 32,93,000.00/-**	**Rs. 27,21,246.67/-**

In spite of our repeated demands you have not paid any amount towards the amount outstanding in your account/accounts / you have not discharged your liabilities.

We do hereby call upon you in terms of section 13(2) of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, to pay a sum of **Rs.27,21,246.67 (Rupees Twenty Seven Lakhs Twenty One Thousand Two Hundred Forty Six and Sixty Seven Paisa Only)** together with interest as per the terms and conditions of loan documents executed by you and discharge your liabilities in full within 60 days from the date of receipt of this notice, failing which, we shall be constrained to enforce the following securities created by you in favour of the bank by exercising any or all of the rights given under the said Act.

DESCRIPTION OF THE SECURED ASSET:

All that Piece and parcel of Vacant Site bearing No. 420 (P-1) formed by the Ideal Homes Co-operative Building Society Limited in sector no A in the Ideal Homes Township, Kenchenahalli, Kengeri Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk measuring East to West 40 feet and North to South 58+59/2 feet in all measuring 2340 Sq. Ft. and bounded on: **East by:** Site No. 421; **West by:** 419; **North by:** 3rd Cross Road; **South by:** Site No. 405.

1) Please note that if you fail to remit the dues within 60 days and if Bank exercises all its rights under this Act and if the dues are not fully satisfied with the sale of proceeds of the secured assets, we shall be constrained to take appropriate legal action against you in a court of law/Debt Recovery Tribunal for recovery of the balance amount from you.
2) As per sec.13 (13) of the Act, on receipt of this notice you are restrained from disposing of or dealing with the above securities except in the usual course of business without prior written consent of the Bank. Please note any violation of this section entails serious consequences.
3) **Your kind attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the SARFAESI in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.**

Date: 19.11.2025
Place: Bangalore
Sd/- (Shashikala Raja)
Chief Manager & Authorized Officer

केनरा बैंक Canara Bank
(A Government Of India Undertaking)
Regional Office : Mandya No. 4 F, Vivekananda Nagar, Chikka Mandya Kere, Mandya - 571401 Mob.: 8660593395
Email id : recmandyaro@canarabank.com

DEMAND NOTICE [SECTION 13(2)]
TO BORROWERS/ GUARANTORS/MORTGAGORS
NOTICE ISSUED UNDER SECTION 13(2) OF THE SECURITISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002

We, Canara Bank, had issued Demand Notices under Section 13(2) of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Security Interest Act 2002 by Registered Post with Acknowledgment Due (RPAD) to the addresses furnished to the Bank as mentioned below. Further, Bank had served the said demand notices by affixture at the addresses given. The contents of the said notices are mentioned herein below.

Branch : Bidadi Branch (0426)

Name And Address Of The Borrowers/ Co-borrowers / Mortgagors / Guarantors : Borrower: M/s Shiva Enterprises, Proprietorship Firm, Kenchana Kuppe, Bidadi, Ramanagara District, Karnataka – 562109 **Proprietor Cum Mortgagor: Sri Shivananjaiah B** S/o Boraiah, MIG III, KHB Colony, Bidadi, Ramanagara District, Karnataka – 562109, **Guarantor Cum Mortgagor: Smt. Prema T M** W/o Shivananjaiah B, MIG III, KHB Colony, Bidadi, Ramanagara District, Karnataka – 562109

[Details of the credit facility/ies availed by the Borrower]

Loan No.	Nature of Loan	Date of Sanction	Limit	Liability with interest as on 03-11-2025	Rate of Interest
042625 6005478	MSME-OD/OCC	30-03-2013	Rs. 90,00,000.00	Rs. 90,94,233.00	12.50%
170002 097560	GECL 1.0(EXT)	17-11-2021	Rs. 9,00,000.00	Rs. 4,08,881.92	10.85%
173000 096766	GECL	03-08-2021	Rs. 18,00,000.00	Rs. 50,097.73	10.85%
	Total		Rs. 1,17,00,000.00	Rs. 95,53,212.65	

Total Liability Amount : **Rs. 95,53,212.65 (Rupees Ninety Five Lakhs Fifty Three Thousand Two Hundred Twelve and Sixty Five Paisa Only)** with further cost and charges, Interest and incidental expenses and costs.
NPA Date : 01-11-2025 **Demand Notice Dated : 03-11-2025**
Name of Title holder : SMT. PREMA T M W/O SHIVANANJAIAH B
Equitable Mortgage of Immovable Property -1 : All That Part And Parcel Of The House Property Bearing Kaneshumari Katha No. 3, MIG-I, Situated At Bidadi Housing Board, Bidadi Hobli, Ramanagara Taluk And District, Karnataka – 562109. **Measuring : East To West – 26.24 Feet, North To South – 49.20 Feet And Total Measuring - 1291 Square Feet. Bounded By: East –** LIG No. 21, 22 & 23, **West –** Road, **North –** MIG-I, B.No. 4, South – MIG-I, B.No. 2.
Name of Title holder : SMT. PREMA T M W/O SHIVANANJAIAH B
Property -2 : All That Part And Parcel Of The Property Bearing Kaneshumari Katha No. 4, MIG-I, Situated At Bidadi KHB Colony, Bidadi Hobli, Ramanagara Taluk And District, Karnataka – 562109. **Measuring : East To West – 15 Meters, North To South – 8 Meters And Total Measuring- 120 Sq. Meters. Bounded By: East –** LIG–II D, House No. 23 & 24, **West –** Road, **North –** MIG-I, House No. B-5, **South –** MIG-I, House No. B-3.
Name of Title holder : SMT. PREMA T M W/O SHIVANANJAIAH B
Property - 3 : All That Part And Parcel Of The Property Bearing Kaneshumari No. 1219/825/82, Site No. 82 Situated At Yogeshwara Layout, Bidadi Hobli, Ramanagara Taluk And District, Karnataka – 562109. **Measuring : East To West – 30 Feet, North To South – 40 Feet And Total Measuring – 1200 Square Feet. Bounded By: East –** Site No. 81, **West –** Site No. 83, **North –** Site No. 79, **South –** 25 Feet Road.
Name of Title holder : SRI SHIVANANJAIAH B S/O BORAIAH
Property - 4 : All That Part And Parcel Of The Property Bearing Kaneshumari No. 450/46, Former Survey No. 156/15 Situated At Kenchanakuppe Village, Bidadi Hobli, Ramanagara Taluk And District, Karnataka – 562109.
Measuring – 10 Guntas. Bounded By: East – Land Of Gomatappa, **West –** Land Of Kariyappa, **North –** Land Of Guddaiah, **South –** Land Of Mylarappa.

You are here by called upon to pay **Canara Bank**, within a period of 60 days from the date of publication of this notice, the respective amount mentioned here above, failing which **Canara Bank** will take necessary action under the provisions of the said Act, against the secured assets including taking possession of the secured assets of the Borrowers and the Guarantors. The powers available to **Canara Bank** under the Act include (i) power to take possession of the secured assets of the Borrowers / Guarantors / Mortgagors including the rights to transfer by way of lease, assignment or sale for realising secured assets and any transfer of secured assets by **Canara Bank** shall vest in the transferee rights in or in relation to, the secured asset transferred as if the transfer has been made by you. In terms of the provisions of section 13(13) of the said Act, you are hereby prohibited from transferring, either by way of sale, lease or otherwise (other than in the ordinary course of your business), any of the secured assets as referred to in the Demand Notice affixed and also Hypothecated / Mortgaged to the bank without prior written consent of the Bank. The notice is issued in terms of Section (13)2 of the said Act.

Date : 19-11-2025
Place : Mandya
Sd/- Authorised Officer
Canara Bank

Citizens protest SC order on removing street dogs from public institutions

Over 250 citizens gathered at Freedom Park to protest against the recent order by the apex court directing the removal of stray dogs from public institutions such as schools and hospitals

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Puppy love: People staging a protest at Freedom Park against the Supreme Court's directive on stray dogs, in Bengaluru on Tuesday. K. MURALI KUMAR

Over 250 citizens gathered at Freedom Park on Tuesday to protest the recent Supreme Court order directing the removal of street dogs from public institutions such as schools and hospitals. The demonstrators included animal welfare groups, volunteers, and pet owners, who argued that the order could worsen public-health risks and undermine decades of work done through the Animal Birth Control (ABC) programme.

The protest drew several NGO representatives and public figures, including actor Aindrita Ray, who said removing sterilised and vaccinated dogs from their territories would create a vacuum and allow unvaccinated animals from neighbouring areas to move in. Ms. Ray called for stronger implementation of ABC instead.

Protesters also urged the Supreme Court to consider approaches that focus on vaccination, sterilisation, and scientific population control. Many emphasised that the ABC rules currently require sterilised and vaccinated street dogs to be released back into the areas they were picked up from.

Arun Prasad, State general secretary of the Bahujan Samaj Party, said the court's direction contradicts existing rules. "The law says sterilised and vaccinated dogs cannot be kept in shelters, but the court now directs that these dogs will remain in shelters," he said.

NGOs also raised concerns about shelter capacity, arguing that healthy community dogs should not be confined unless they are injured or unfit for the streets.

Meanwhile, activists questioned the municipal system's capacity to carry out mass pick-ups when sterilisation and vaccination drives have struggled with staffing and coverage. They urged civic authorities to prioritise sustained ABC implementation, citing Goa being declared India's first rabies-free State as an example of what long-term programmes can achieve.

Demonstrators described the order as not in favour of human welfare, arguing that removing vaccinated dogs would leave gaps in territorial protection and compromise ongoing rabies-control work. They called on Bengaluru's civic bodies and Karnataka's administration to seek clarity from the court and to ensure any implementation complies fully with ABC and Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI) rules.

Animal welfare groups said they would continue engaging with officials across the city's corporations to highlight legal requirements and practical constraints.

Activist Priya Chetty Rajagopal urged residents to reach out to commissioners and officials to ensure that no dog pick-ups take place until the conditions outlined in the court's order including surveys, shelter preparation, and fencing are met.

3 suffocate to death in room in Belagavi

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

Three youth died and one is in critical condition after they inhaled carbon monoxide from a charcoal stove in their room in Belagavi on Tuesday. While Rehan Motte, 22, Moheen Nalaband, 23, and, Sarfaraj Harapanahalli, 22, died of suffocation, Shah Nawaz, 19, has been admitted to hospital.

According to the police, they had lit the stove to heat up the room. The smoke reduced the oxygen and emanated carbon monoxide. They died in their sleep, police said.

HC directs registration of FIR against Sandur PI for assault

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka has ordered registration of a First Information Report (FIR) against Mahesh Gowda, police inspector (PI), Sandur police station in Ballari district, on the complaint of assault lodged by a 25-year-old youth in August.

Justice M. Nagaprasanna issued the direction while allowing a petition filed by V. Vivekananda, a resident of Kolur village, Kurugod taluk of Ballari district.

The petitioner complained that he was assaulted by the inspector, but his complaint against him was not registered at the Sandur police station even though it was a cognisable offence.

From pillar to post

The petitioner was made to run from pillar to post on his representation for registration of complaint against the inspector, and his representation in this regard to the Home Minister too has not yielded any result due to which he knocked the doors of the court.

Pointing out that complaint cannot be declined to be registered when a citizen approaches police station of the jurisdiction alleging commission of cognisable offence by any person, even if it is a police officer, the court said registration of a crime against the accused for commission of a cognisable offence will not depend upon who the accused is.

Stating that the FIR should have been registered by the police as complaint is indicative of cognisable offence of assault, the court directed the Superintendent of Police, Ballari, to ensure registration of FIR and fair investigation, if required through other police station.

High Court seeks details of MBBS seats increased after counselling process began

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The court has also asked to give details about the number of MBBS seats that were added to the All India Quota seats. FILE PHOTO

The High Court of Karnataka on Tuesday asked the National Medical Commission (NMC) to give details of the number of MBBS seats increased across the country, and in Karnataka, after the commencement of the process of counselling for allotment of seats for the academic year 2025-26.

A Division Bench comprising Justice Jayant Banerji and Justice K.V. Aravind sought these details during the hearing on the petitions, filed by some of the MBBS seat aspirants questioning the methodology adopted by the Karnataka Examination Authority (KEA) in allotting the seats in the third round of counselling to fill up vacant seats in MBBS and BDS courses.

The Bench also asked the advocate representing the NMC and the KEA to give details about the number of MBBS seats that were added to the All India Quota (AIQ) seats from the increased seats in the medical colleges in Karnataka after the commencement of the counselling process by the KEA.

Though the KEA has published the list of provisional allotment of seats for the third round of counselling on October 24, the process has been halted since October 26 on the interim direction of the bench not to finalise the provisionally allotted seats. The KEA's advocate told the Bench that the allotment for AIQ seats across the country has been completed by the Medical Counselling Committee (MCC), New Delhi. Not only that, the MCC has also published the final list of allotment of seats that remained vacant after the third round of counselling, in the stray vacancy round of counselling, the bench was informed.

The bench has posted the petitions for further orders on November 19.

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Tender Enquiry No. - 359/SS-II(D) | Dated : 17.11.25

Dy.CE/Substation Design/TS Organization, C-1 Shakti Vihar, PSPCL, Patiala invites E-tender for Manufacture, Testing, Supply & Delivery of 1100 nos. SCADA-Compatible 11kV Vaccum Circuit Breakers (11kV VCBs). For detailed NIT & Tender Specification, please refer to https://eproc.punjab.gov.in from 17.11.25 onwards.

Note: Corrigendum and amendments, if any, will be published online at https://eproc.punjab.gov.in

C 810/25 1079/12/2025-26/5117

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Karnataka Public Works Department
Office of the Engineer-in-Chief, PRAMC, PWD, Bengaluru-560001
No.: EIC/PWD/05/PRAMC/2025-26 Date: 17.11.2025
SHORT TERM TENDER
The Executive Engineer, PRAMC, KPWD on behalf of Governor of Karnataka, invites Short-Term Tender for Three Building works in Belagavi, Mysore and Bengaluru Districts. Further details can be obtained from Karnataka KPPP Portal (https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in) from 18.11.2025, 05:30 PM onwards.
DIPR/CP/LC/3771/2025-26
Sd/- Executive Engineer, PRAMC, KPWD, Bengaluru

राष्ट्रीय पृथ्वी विज्ञान अध्ययन केंद्र
NATIONAL CENTRE FOR EARTH SCIENCE STUDIES
पृथ्वी विज्ञान मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार
Ministry of Earth Sciences, Govt. of India
Akkulam, Thiruvananthapuram -11.
NCESS
No: NCESS/P&GA/9424/17/2025 Date: 18.11.2025
RECRUITMENT
NCESS conducts walk-in interview on 27.11.2025 at its campus in Thiruvananthapuram, for the posts of CONSULTANTS on contract basis. Please visit website for details. Further changes, if any, will be notified through website only.
Website: www.ncess.gov.in / Phone No: 0471 - 2511500.
Sd/ Head, Administration (i/c)

THE HINDU OPPORTUNITIES

GENERAL

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City Campus : Ballari Business College Annex, Opp. KSRTC Bus Depot, Siruguppa Road, Ballari- 583103, Karnataka.
Ref:KU/Reg.Off./Advt/2025-26/592 17.11.2025
Advertisement No.2025-26/03

FACULTY RECRUITMENT

Applications are invited from the eligible candidates for the post of **Assistant Professor, Associate Professor** and **Professor** in the following departments:

- Pharmacy (D Pharm, B Pharm & M Pharm)
- Chemical Engineering
- Computer Science and Engineering.
- Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning.
- Electronics and Communication Engineering.
- Electrical & Electronics Engineering.
- Pharmaceutical Engineering.
- Master of Computer Applications (MCA)
- Commerce & Management
- Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics & English.

The qualifications and experience shall be as per UGC/AICTE /PCI norms.

Submit hard copy of the application with updated CV, photograph and all testimonials to the above mentioned main campus address.
Also send soft copy of the application with testimonials to **career@kishkindauniversity.edu.in & hr@kishkindauniversity.edu.in on or before 10.12.2025**

Sd /- Registrar
Kishkinda University, Ballari

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- School of Agriculture
- School of Law
- School of Allied Health Science
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- School of Nursing
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- University Polytechnic
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Eligibility- Candidates having prior experience of handling placements in one of the above schools will be preferred.
Interested candidates should email their resume indicating the position applied for within 15 days of this advertisement at the following :

Director HR
GALGOTIAS UNIVERSITY
www.galgotiasuniversity.edu.in
E-mail: recruitments@galgotiasuniversity.edu.in
Plot No. 2, Sector-17A, Yamuna Expressway,
Distt Gautam Buddh Nagar, Uttar Pradesh.
Phone No.: 0120-4806860

GENERAL

E-mail - mdjscb@jscb.gov.in Ph. No. 0651-2913111
Jharkhand State Cooperative Bank Ltd., Ranchi
1st Floor, Shaheed Chowk, Main Road, Ranchi- 834001
Ref. : 2105 Date: 14.11.2025
APPLICATION FOR THE POST OF CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER (CEO)
Applications are invited for the post of **Chief Executive Officer** by Jharkhand State Cooperative Bank Ltd. from eligible candidates. The appointment will be made initially for a period of three years on contract basis.
The **last date for receiving application shall be 05.12.2025 up to 5.00 PM** and shortlisted eligible candidate will be called for interview. The date of interview, decided by the Bank will be communicated to shortlisted candidates through e-mail.
For eligibility criteria and other details, please visit website: https://www.jscb.gov.in.
Sd/-
Manager (HR)
Jharkhand State Cooperative Bank Ltd.

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Physiology	Sr. Resident	-	-
Biochemistry	Sr. Resident	Asst.Professor	Asso.Prof/Professor
Pharmacology	-	Asst.Professor	-
Pathology /Transfusion Medicine	-	Asst.Professor	
Microbiology	Sr. Resident	-	-
Forensic Medicine	Sr. Resident	Asst.Professor	Asso.Prof/Professor
General Medicine	Sr. Resident	-	-
Pediatrics	-	Asst.Professor	-
General Surgery	Sr. Resident	Asst.Professor	Asso.Prof/Professor
ENT	-	-	Asso.Prof/Professor
OBST &GYNAE	Sr. Resident	-	Asso.Prof/Professor
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Radiology	Sr. Resident	-	Asso.Prof/Professor

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Senior Residents in other Departments	M.D./M.S in the respective subjects
Assistant Professor, Associate Professor & Professors (all Broad Speciality Departments)	M.D./M.S in the respective subjects with required experience as per NMC norms

Mode of Interview: Online/Offline as per candidate's convenience)
Interested candidates please send your applications/CV directorprincipal@pims-py.edu.in & mmmpims@gmail.com
For queries: 0413-2651143/0413-2651140

भारतीय विमानपत्तन प्राधिकरण
AIRPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA
दक्षिणी क्षेत्र, चेन्नै– 16 / SOUTHERN REGION : CHENNAI – 16
भारतीय विमानपत्तन प्राधिकरण–दक्षिणी क्षेत्र में ग्रुप–सी पद के लिए ऑनलाइन भर्ती
विज्ञापन संख्याः द.क्षे / 01 / 2025
भारतीय विमानपत्तन प्राधिकरण (भाविप्रा) द्वारा योग्य उम्मीदवारों से, जो तमिलनाडु, आंध्र प्रदेश, तेलंगाना, कर्नाटक, केरल, पुदुचेरी और लक्षद्वीप द्वीपसमूह के मूल निवासी हों, से दक्षिणी क्षेत्र में निम्नलिखित पद पर भर्ती हेतु आवेदन आमंत्रित किए जाते हैं।

पद कोड	पद का नाम, ग्रेड एवं वेतनमान	अ.ज.जा	कुल	ईएसएम (शामिल)	पीडब्ल्यूबीडी, ए	बी	सी	डीएंडई
01	वरिष्ठ सहायक (राजभाषा) (गै.का.–6) रु. 36000–3 %–110000	01#	01#	-	-	-	-	-

चूँकि यह पद अ.ज.जा के वर्ग के लिए आरक्षित है इसलिए केवल अ.ज.जा के उम्मीदवार ही ऑनलाइन आवेदन करने के पात्र हैं।
कंप्यूटर आधारित परीक्षा के लिए प्रस्तावित केंद्रः चेन्नई, बेंगलुरु, त्रिवेंद्रम, विजयवाड़ा, हैदराबाद
विस्तृत अधिसूचना भा.वि.प्रा. वेबसाइट पर उपलब्ध है। रिक्ति की संख्या अनुमानित है। भारतीय विमानपत्तन प्राधिकरण (भा.वि.प्रा.) भविष्य की आवश्यकताओं के आधार पर रिक्तियों को बढ़ाने या घटाने का अधिकार सुरक्षित रखता है। भाविप्रा आवश्यकता पड़ने पर बिना कोई और सूचना दिए या कोई भी कारण बताए बिना, भर्ती प्रक्रिया को संशोधित / परिवर्तित / प्रतिबंधित / विस्तार / रद्द करने का अधिकार भी सुरक्षित रखता है। प्रबंधन का निर्णय अंतिम होगा और किसी भी अपील पर विचार नहीं किया जाएगा।
आवेदक भा.वि.प्रा. की आधिकारिक वेबसाइट **https://www.aai.aero/en/careers/recruitment** पर उपलब्ध लिंक के माध्यम से निर्देशों को ध्यानपूर्वक पढ़ने के बाद ऑनलाइन आवेदन कर सकते हैं। पद के लिए आवेदन करने से पहले उम्मीदवार को यह सुनिश्चित कर लेना चाहिए कि वह पात्रता और अन्य मानदंडों को पूरा करता / करती है। किसी अन्य माध्यम से किया गया आवेदन स्वीकार नहीं किया जाएगा। आवेदन के संबंध में भा.वि.प्रा. को कोई दस्तावेज भेजने की आवश्यकता नहीं है। केवल ऑनलाइन माध्यम से ही आवेदन स्वीकार किए जाएँगे।
आवेदन का ऑनलाइन पंजीकरण–आरंभ तिथिः 20.12.2025 **21.11.2025 अंतिम तिथिः.**
क्षेत्रीय कार्यपालक निदेशक,
दक्षिणी क्षेत्र, चेन्नई

ONLINE RECRUITMENT GROUP-C POST IN AIRPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA- SOUTHERN REGION
ADVT No. SR/ 01 / 2025
Applications are invited by AIRPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA (AAI) from the eligible candidates who are domicile of **Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Karnataka, Kerala, Puducherry and Lakshadweep islands** to fill up the following post in Southern Region.

Post Code	Name of the post, Grade & Scale of Pay	ST	Total	ESM (Included)	PwBD A	B	C	D&E
01	Senior Assistant (Official Language) (NE-6) Rs.36000- 3%- 110000)	01#	01#	-	-	-	-	-

As the post is reserved for ST Category, only ST candidates are eligible to apply through online.
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Detailed notification is available in AAI Website. The number of vacancy is tentative. AIRPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA(AAI) reserves the right to increase or decrease the vacancies depending upon the future requirements. AAI also reserves the right to modify/alter/restrict/enlarge/cancel the recruitment process, if need so arises without issuing any further notice or any reasons what so ever. The decision of the Management will be final and no appeal shall be entertained.
Applicant may apply online through the link available in AAI's official website **https://www.aai.aero/en/careers/recruitment** after going through instructions carefully. Before applying for the post, the candidate should ensure that he/she meets the eligibility and other criteria. No application through any other mode will be accepted. No documents are required to be sent to AAI in connection with the application. Application other than online mode will not be accepted.
Online Registrations of application - Start Date: 21.11.2025 End Date: 20.12.2025
Regional Executive Director
Southern Region, Chennai

Wild tusker rescued after 3-day ordeal in Mandya dist.

The male elephant, around 12 years, was safely lifted out of a 60-ft-deep power-generation canal, using heavy-duty cranes

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

A young tusker was successfully rescued and released back into the forest near Shivanasamudra in Malavalli taluk of Mandya district on Tuesday, after it was trapped for almost three days in the canal supplying water to a private hydropower generating plant.

The three-day operation ended successfully after the male elephant, estimated to be about 12 years, was safely lifted out of a 60-ft-deep power-generation canal, using heavy-duty cranes.

Prabhu Goud, Deputy Conservator of Forests, Mysuru Wildlife Division, who oversaw the rescue operation, said that the animal, which had remained trapped in the fast-flowing canal since Sunday, was not injured and was later released into the Cauvery Wildlife Sanctuary, which abuts the Shivanasamudra falls.

He said the elephant may have slipped into the canal around 11.15 a.m. on Sunday, either while attempting to drink water or while playing near the edge. Once inside, it was unable to extricate itself and climb out due to the high-velocity flow of water in the canal which is supplied to a hydropower plant run by Pioneer Jenco Ltd.

The elephant that was stuck in the canal supplying water to a private hydropower generation station near Shivanasamdura in Mandya district. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

With the canal continuing to carry water at force, the Forest Department held discussions with the Krishnaraja Sagar and Kabini dam authorities to reduce the outflow from the two dams to the river and thus stabilise the situation.

Meanwhile, nearly 80 personnel monitored the elephant round-the-clock and ensured that the tusker was fed with sugarcane and fodder so that it did not collapse due to exhaustion and panic.

Mr. Goud said the actual extraction operation was a major logistical challenge. "An 80-tonne crane – usually deployed for hoisting metro coaches – had to be brought in from Bengaluru due to the absence of heavy-duty machinery in the region," he said.

Besides, two additional cranes were positioned to assist in lifting the animal once darted and stabilised on a platform.

The critical phase came immediately after darting. There was real concern that once tranquillised, the elephant would collapse and though the outflow from the dam had stopped, there was enough water flow due to seepage.

"Water could enter the lungs and cause the elephant to die, and hence precautions were taken to ensure that it was hoisted immediately on being tranquillised," said Mr. Goud.

It also entailed a lot of preliminary work like creating a platform strong enough to bear the load of the elephant and raise it to a height of 60 ft.

The entire operation took around 40 minutes, with all three cranes working in coordination to bring the elephant safely out of the 60-foot-deep canal. After medical assessment confirmed that the animal had suffered no injuries, the antidote was administered, and the elephant scampered back into the sanctuary.

The officials described the effort as one of the most complex rescues in recent years, which not only entailed teamwork but also coordination from different departments, including the dam authorities, and the technical crew for the safe rescue and release of the elephant.

D.Raghu, Deputy Conservator of Forests, Mandya; P. Anusha, Executive Director, Mysuru Zoo; Ramesh and Adarsh, wildlife veterinarians, and others were part of the rescue operation.

Eshwar Khandre approves appointment of 15 wildlife doctors across State

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

With Karnataka's zoos and elephant camps facing a shortage of wildlife doctors, Environment Minister Eshwar B. Khandre on Tuesday gave in-principle approval to create a separate cadre and appoint 15 wildlife doctors.

Eshwar B. Khandre

The Minister has directed zoo officials that if scheduled animals die in zoos or wildlife sanctuaries, an audit should be conducted and the govt. should be informed

Death of blackbuck

In the wake of the unnatural death of 31 blackbuck at Kittur Rani Channamma Zoo in Bhutaramanahatti of Belagavi district, Mr. Khandre instructed the existing veterinarians to take necessary precautionary measures until the new wildlife doctors are appointed.

He said that doctors have confirmed that the death of blackbuck at the zoo was due to Hemorrhagic Septicemia - a bacterial infection - and directed that a study be conducted to determine whether the infection was spread through air, water, food or animal keepers.

He said that necessary precautions should be taken to prevent it from spreading to other animals and also said that Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) be formulated for management of wildlife in zoos. The Minister directed zoo officials that if scheduled animals die in zoos or wildlife sanctuaries, an audit should be conducted without delay and the government should be informed.

Negligence

On the death of a female Indian Gaur on October 31 while shifting the animal into the quarantine enclosure as part of an approved animal exchange programme between Bannerghatta Biological Park and Nehru Zoological Park, Hyderabad, he said that there have been complaints about negligence on the part of the officer and staff. Mr. Khandre has asked for a report on this incident.

'Circular economy has potential to unlock up to ₹20,000 cr. annually'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Circular economy in waste has the potential to unlock between ₹15,000 crore and ₹20,000 crore per year in Karnataka, said A.V. Manjunatha, associate professor at the Institute of Social and Economic Change.

Speaking at a conference on 'Circular Economy and Sustainability' on Tuesday, organised by the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB), he said that a circular economy can create 1 lakh to 1.2 lakh green jobs, particularly in Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), and also reduce carbon emissions by 20% to 25% from urban areas, boost clean technology innovation and start-up ecosystems.

"Karnataka can develop a growth trajectory that decouples growth from fossil fuel consumption and waste to become a leader in circularity. However, realising this potential will require action from public, private sectors and civil society organisations," he said.

He added that the State can create circular practices that generate economic prosperity and address environmental challenges by investing in R&D, improving policy frameworks, mobilising financial mechanisms, and fostering cross-sector collaboration.

"A shift from a linear model (take-make-dispose) to circular model (reduce-reuse-repair-recycle-recover) requires system level transformation across policy, technology, markets, institutions and citizens behavior," the professor added.

Income from user fee

Prof. Manjunatha also said that the total expected income come from the imposition of a user fee for Solid Waste Management (SWM) and Construction and Demolition (C&D waste) and SWM processing in Bengaluru alone is around ₹1,030 crore.

Further speaking on e-waste, he said that it contains metals like gold, silver platinum, palladium, copper among others, rare earth elements like Neodymium, cobalt, lithium. Computers, laptops and mobiles have about 0.2 gm, 0.1 g, and 33 mg gold each respectively.

"A total of 2,92,846 tonnes per year of e-waste is generated at a value of ₹2,886 crore, of which only ₹317 crore is recovered and there is an estimated loss of ₹2,569 crore," he said.

Plastic waste

KSPCB chairman P.M. Narendraswamy said that under the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) initiatives, 1,407 units were registered in the State for plastic waste which included 785 importers and 353 producers.

For e-waste, he said that 1063 units were registered, which included 973 producers, 31 refurbishers, 49 recyclers and five manufacturers. Eleven units were registered for battery waste.

Mekedatu project: State to submit fresh DPR to Centre

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Close on the heels of the Supreme Court declining to entertain Tamil Nadu's application challenging the proposed Mekedatu balancing reservoir across river Cauvery, Karnataka has decided to submit a a fresh DPR (Detailed Project Report) to the Centre.

A decision to this effect was taken at a high level meeting to discuss measures to be taken to get clearances for the project in the wake of the Supreme Court's verdict, and also another meeting of the Board of Cauvery Neeravari Nigama, in Bengaluru on Tuesday.

Briefing mediapersons after the meetings, Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, who also holds Water Resources portfolio, said there was a need to prepare a fresh DPR as the earlier one had been rejected citing certain lacunae. "We need to rectify the lacunae," he noted.

Among other things, the fresh DPR would comprise comprehensive details on the project as well as the total extent of forest land that would be submerged, he said.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar at a meeting at Vidhana Soudha in Bengaluru. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The Deputy Chief Minister announced that the meeting had decided to set up an office that would house senior officials like Chief Engineer and Chief Conservator of Forest in Ramanagara. He said Ramanagara was chosen as an ideal location to set up the office as that would be near to both the project site and Mandya district which is part of the project.

The Bench headed by Chief Justice of India B.R. Gavai had on November 13 pronounced its verdict, refusing to entertain the Tamil Nadu's application against Karnataka's proposed project and termed the Tamil Nadu's objection as premature.

The Supreme Court had observed that Karnataka would be bound to release the share of Cauvery water allotted to lower riparian Tamil Nadu and the Union Territory of Puducherry.

Karnataka has been contending that building a balancing reservoir at Mekedatu across river Cauvery would help in ensuring release of water to Tamil Nadu as per its share.

JD(S) State executive to meet on Nov. 21

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Amid speculation over the elevation of Nikhil Kumaraswamy as the Karnataka unit president, the State executive council of the Janata Dal (Secular) will be meeting here to elect the head this weekend.

Currently, Union Minister for Heavy Industries and Steel H.D. Kumaraswamy is the State unit president, while his father and former Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda is the national president.

The national council and Karnataka State council will be meeting to choose the national and Karnataka unit presidents, respectively, on November 21, which will be followed by a plenary session on November 22, during which the current political scenario in the country will be discussed along with broader strategies that the party needs to adopt.

Silver jubilee

The two-day event will also coincide with the silver jubilee of the formation of the party.

This comes amid speculations that Nikhil Kumaraswamy will be elevated as State unit president replacing HDK, who is also Union Minister for Heavy Industries and Steel

According to party sources, delegates from several States, including Tamil Nadu, Bihar, Haryana, Maharashtra, and Uttarakhand, will be participating in the national executive.

Mr. Nikhil was recently inducted into the party's Political Affairs Committee headed by Bandeppa Kashempur.

Sources did not deny the possibility of waiting for Mr. Nikhil to complete his State tour, and elevating him before the 2028 Assembly elections.

However, those close to the Union Minister said that it had become increasingly difficult for Mr. Kumaraswamy to manage both the party affairs and look after the Ministry's work. Hence, there has been a push to appoint Mr. Nikhil to the post.

First-of-its-kind Child Rights Index to be released

Shilpa Elizabeth
BENGALURU

The Karnataka State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (KSCPCR) is set to launch a Child Rights Index, a first-of-its-kind document in the country, as claimed by the officials.

Conceived with the idea of demystifying and simplifying the enforcement of laws and schemes related to child rights, the index has been compiled by gathering data from various departments. The document is meant to act as a quick reference for government officials for effective implementation of child-related schemes within their respective departments. "The document details the laws and schemes in each department for children, how effective the implementation of the same has been and what changes can be adopted for improving things. It is conceived to ensure the rights, protection and welfare of children," said Shashidhar S. Kosambe, chairperson, KSCPCR.

"If you are a government official, the index will help you quickly understand what the available schemes and laws within your department are in this regard," he further explained.

The index is expected to be launched later this week.

TAMILNADU INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED (TIDCO)
19-A, Rukmani Lakshmipathi Road, Egmore, Chennai – 600 008
CIN-U65993TN1965SGC005327

No.TIDCO/FTO/KOVILPATTI/2025-26 **e-TENDER NOTICE** Date : 19.11.2025

TIDCO, a Government of Tamil Nadu enterprises intend to select a Concessionaire for Establishment of Flying Training Organisation (FTO) at Kovilpatti on 'DBFOT' basis for a period of 31 years. In this context, TIDCO invites interested firms to submit proposals for development of FTO as detailed in the tender document.

Interested firms can download the tender from the website **https://tidco.com** and **https://tntenders.gov.in** with free of cost.

The schedule for the bidding process is as follows:-

1. Pre-bid meeting at **15.00 Hours** IST on **02.12.2025** @ TIDCO Office
2. Last date and time for submission of Proposals/ Bids is on or before **15.00 Hours** IST on **06.01.2026** through **https://tntenders.gov.in**
3. Opening of Technical Proposals/ Bids is at **17.00 Hours** IST on **06.01.2026.**

Managing Director
Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation Limited
19-A, Rukmani Lakshmipathi Road, Egmore, Chennai – 600 008.
E-mail: cmd@tidco.com, Website: https://tidco.com

DIPR/ 6196 /TENDER/2025

E-Mail : sencrwangul@yahoo.co.in; Ph.No.06764-236404

Government of Odisha
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, ANGUL

NOTICE INVITING TENDER FOR ROAD WORKS IN ODISHA
Bid Identification No. Road Online AGL-22/2025-26

No. 4226 // Dt. 12.11.25 //

1. Name of the Work : Road Works
2. Total No. of Work : 4 Nos.
3. Estimated Cost : Rs.561.97 to Rs.1197.11 Lakhs (Approx.)
4. Class of Contractor : As per annexure
5. Period of Completion: As per annexure
6. Other details

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender On-line for bidding		Last Date & Time of seeking tender Clarification	Date & Time of Opening of Tender	
		From	To		Technical Bid	Financial Bid
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Angul	Road Online -AGL-22/25-26	19.11.25 at 10.00 A.M.	03.12.25 up to 5.00 P.M.	02.12.25 up to 1.00 P.M.	04.12.25 at 10.00 AM	Will be intimated separately

For detailed Notice Inviting Tenders, Please visit to the website : www.tendersorissa.gov.in

O-1437: **Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Angul.**

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

IN THE LOVING MEMORY OF

V SHIVADAS PAI
15/02/1952 - 14/11/2025

You shall be in our hearts forever, And you shall always be remembered be as a loving father, A dedicated husband and an affectionate man who was loved by one and all.

Deeply mourned by

Mrs Jaya Pai, Venkatesh Pai, Namratha Pai, Yogish Pai and Dhipin Pai along with family and friends

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

2nd Death Anniversary

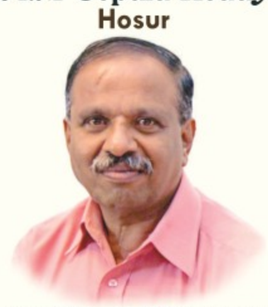
Bhavani Leela Surendranath
19.11.2023

Two years have passed without you. Your memories are always with us. You live on through the kindness and love you brought in to our lives.

Fondly Remembered by:
Daughter: Janaki
Son-in-law: Venu

IN MEMORIAM

In Eternal Memory
A.M Gopala Reddy
Hosur



15.04.1949 — 19.11.2015
We love you and will miss you forever
Loving Family | Relatives | Friends

IN MEMORY OF YOUR LOVED ONES
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DONATE EYES - GIFT SIGHT

51 Maoists arrested in A.P. operation

The arrests were made during search operations conducted in five districts; Hidma's dalam members among those held, Maoists are shifting their hideouts to urban areas, a police official said, search is ongoing for the ones who escaped

Rajulapudi Srinivas
VIJAYAWADA

The Organisation for Counter Terrorist Operations (OCTOPUS) and the police arrested 51 Maoists in several districts of Andhra Pradesh on Tuesday.

This is said to be the first such major arrests from urban areas in one single day.

The arrests were made during search operations on the Maoist hideouts in the districts of Krishna, Eluru, NTR, Kakinada, and Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Konaseema.

The police arrested 28 Maoists in Krishna, 15 in Eluru, five in NTR, two in Kakinada, and one in Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Konaseema.

Special forces police at the building where the Maoists were present at New Auto Nagar in outskirts of Vijayawada. K.V.S. GIRI

Search ongoing

The OCTOPUS teams also seized a huge cache of ammunition, cash and other material from the arrested Maoists. "Search is on for those who escaped," said the police.

"We have kept a watch on the Maoist movements in Andhra Pradesh. On information that top leaders are entering the State, the police teams cracked down on the Maoists, in which six were killed and more than 50 arrested," said Additional Director General of Police (Intelligence) Mahesh Chandra Laddha.

"Due to continuous operations in Chhattisgarh and other States, and in the Andhra-Odisha Border (AOB) region, Maoists are trying to shift their hideouts to cities and urban areas. We have seized some weapons from the arrested Maoists. Search is on to locate Maoist dumps," Mr. Laddha told *The Hindu*.

Krishna district Superintendent of Police V. Vidya Sagar Naidu said that 28 Maoists, including 21 women, were arrested in a private house in Penamaluru mandal.

"The arrested include nine-member security personnel of CPI (Maoist) general secretary Thippiri Tirupati and Hidma's dalam members," the SP said.

Eluru district SP K. Pratap Shiva Kishore said 15 Maoists hiding in a private building in Green City on the outskirts of Eluru were arrested in the early hours of Tuesday.

"We haven been observing their movements for the last few days and arrested four women Maoists and 11 members of the Hidma dalam," Mr. Pratap Shiva Kishore said.

Vishnu Deo calls killing of Hidma a 'blow to red terror'

Shubhomoy Sikdar
RAIPUR

Describing slain Maoist leader Madvi Hidma as "the face of bloodshed, violence, and terror in Bastar for years", Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai on Tuesday said his end was not only an operational achievement, but also a significant blow to the red terror.

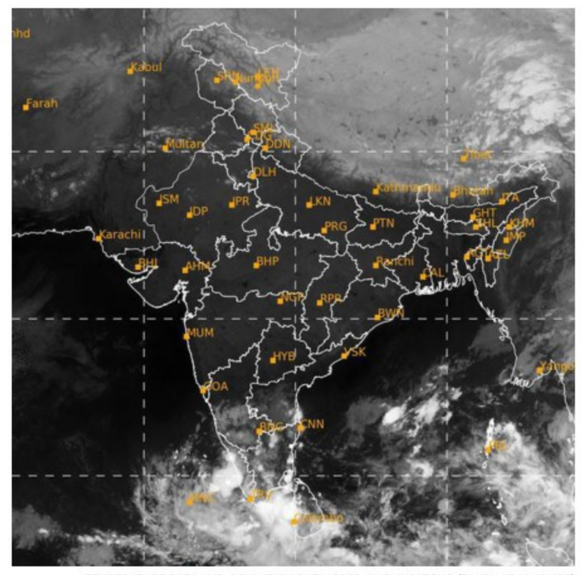
"The neutralisation of six Naxalites, including top Naxalite leader and CC member Madvi Hidma, in a successful operation by security forces on the Chhattisgarh- Andhra Pradesh border is a decisive achievement in our fight against Naxalism. We salute the indomitable courage of our security forces for this," Mr. Sai wrote on X, calling it a 'decisive achievement.'

Inspector General of Police (Bastar Range) P. Sundarraj said that under sustained and coordinated security pressure in Bastar, Hidma, his wife Raje (who was also killed in Tuesday's operation), and their close group were forced to abandon their traditional safe hideouts.

"Reliable sources confirmed that they had been taking shelter in the Kare Gutta hills and adjoining Chhattisgarh-Telangana inter-State border for the last few months, continuously fleeing from one location to another. In the morning hours of Tuesday, their escape finally came to an end in Alluri district, bordering Andhra Pradesh-Chhattisgarh," he said.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.45 HRS)

Forecast for Wednesday: Heavy rainfall/thunderstorm accompanied with lightning likely at isolated places over Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Karaikal, Kerala, Mahe, Lakshadweep and Andaman & Nicobar Islands. Cold wave conditions likely at isolated places over central Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	32.1	17.4	Kozhikode	32	32.6	24.4
Ahmedabad	—	29.4	13.5	Kurnool	—	32.2	19.0
Aizawl	—	25.6	13.5	Lucknow	—	29.7	13.4
Allahabad	—	27.8	11.5	Madurai	1	29.0	23.1
Bengaluru	—	25.0	18.5	Mangaluru	—	32.8	23.4
Bhopal	—	25.4	8.2	Mumbai	—	32.1	17.4
Bhubaneswar	—	29.7	14.1	Mysuru	—	29.0	18.6
Chandigarh	—	28.2	10.2	New Delhi	—	26.4	9.6
Chennai	20.4	29.1	23.8	Patna	—	27.8	17.5
Coimbatore	0.2	29.6	20.8	Port Blair	0.2	30.5	25.0
Dehradun	—	27.2	10.5	Puducherry	6	26.2	20.8
Gangtok	—	20.4	10.6	Pune	—	29.2	13.3
Goa	—	34.0	19.2	Raipur	—	28.0	13.3
Guwahati	—	28.4	16.1	Ranchi	—	26.4	11.3
Hubballi	—	29.0	18.0	Shillong	—	20.7	9.6
Hyderabad	—	29.6	14.2	Shimla	—	20.4	9.4
Imphal	—	27.2	16.7	Srinagar	—	17.5	-1.8
Jaipur	—	28.1	12.4	Thiruvananthapuram	30	27.8	24.0
Kochi	0.2	31.0	25.0	Tiruchi	1	26.5	22.0
Kohima	—	21.4	9.4	Vijayawada	—	31.2	19.8
Kolkata	—	30.4	18.0	Visakhapatnam	—	30.1	21.9

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.17	..90	.19	...205	...166	
Bengaluru	...8	..14	.46	94	...142	
Chennai	.15	..28	.28	...154	...106	
Delhi	.52	139	165	...447	...433	
Hyderabad	...4	..24	.38	...165	...131	
Kolkata	...2	..61	.45	...263	...194	
Lucknow	.12	..35	.58	...161	...206	
Mumbai	...6	..52	.38	...217	...270	
Pune	.18	110	.85	...236	...234	
Visakhapatnam	.24	..21	.46	...128	...124	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 454 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Shillong, Meghalaya recorded a healthy AQI score of 26

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Maoist movement suffers a serious setback

NEWS ANALYSIS

Sumit Bhattacharjee
VISAKHAPATNAM

The Special Party team of the Alluri Sitharama Raju (ASR) district police gunned down the elusive Maoist Madvi Hidma, alias Santosh, his wife Madakam Raje, alias Rajakka, and four others in an exchange of fire near Nellooru village in Maredumilli Mandal, Alluri Sitharama Raju district, Andhra Pradesh, in the early hours of Tuesday.

The encounter reportedly took place between 6 a.m. and 7 a.m., and combing operations were still ongoing, said Andhra Pradesh DGP Harish Kumar Gupta.

The killing of Hidma is considered a major blow to the Maoist movement, as he had not only eluded security forces for a long time but was also regarded as a military strategist and a fierce fighter. He headed the Central Military Commission (CMC), the main fighting force of the banned CPI (Maoist), and was known for his ability to lead his fighters with his tactical and combat skills.

Born in 1981 in Sukma, Chhattisgarh, Hidma was the youngest member of the Central Committee (CC) and the only tribal from Bastar to be inducted into the CC recently.

Madvi Hidma

His fighting prowess at a young age attracted the attention of Nambala Keshava Rao, alias Basavaraju, the former General Secretary of the party, who was killed in an encounter in the Abujhmad of Chhattisgarh on May 21, 2025.

Hidma rose to lead a battalion of the People's Liberation Guerrilla Army.

He carried a reward of ₹50 lakh and was known to have participated in at least 26 major attacks, including the 2010 attack on the CRPF camp in Dantewada, Chhattisgarh, in which 76 personnel were killed, and the 2013 Jhiram Ghati ambush, in which several Congress leaders, including Mahendra Karma, Chhattisgarh Congress chief Nand Kumar Patel, and Vidya Charan Shukla, were killed.

Union Minister for Home Affairs Amit Shah has set a deadline to end the movement by March 2026. In line with this, the government launched Operation Kagar in Chhattisgarh, in coordination with other Left-Wing Extremist -affected States such as Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Jharkhand, Odisha, and West Bengal.

Nearing the endgame

The CPI (Maoist), which had about 42 CC members in 2004, now has only 12.

Hidma was one of the leaders on whom the CC had placed its hopes to revive its military movement. With his killing, it now seems that the endgame is drawing near.

EC announces measures to ease BLOs' workload

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Election Commission (EC) has modified the criterion for the appointment of booth level agents (BLA) by political parties and has decided to allow parties to set up help desks for the collection of filled-up enumeration forms for easing the workload of booth level officers (BLOs) assigned to the special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls.

The commission has also permitted the BLAs of recognised political parties to submit the applications – enumeration forms as well as Form 6 enrolment applications – in bulk.

The measures are meant to ease the workload of the BLOs appointed by the EC and ensure the smooth completion of the SIR.

The decisions were conveyed to political parties by the Chief Electoral Officer (Kerala) Rathan U. Kelkar on Tuesday.

Political parties can set up help desks to support voters by collecting filled enumeration forms, and by promoting the timely submission of forms, especially for new applicants.

"This will greatly facilitate the work of the BLOs and the District Election Officer (DEO)," Mr. Kelkar said.

'Submission in bulk'

The BLAs of recognised political parties can submit applications (enumeration forms and Form 6 enrollment forms) in bulk, subject to the conditions that a BLA must not submit more than 50 forms per day to the BLO before the publication of the draft.

Rough seas

Day's catch: Fishermen returning with their daily catch amid high tidal waves before sunrise at the Kannanthura coastal village in Thiruvananthapuram on Tuesday. NIRMAL HARINDRAN

Karnataka State CITU elects new office-bearers

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Senior trade union leaders Meenakshi Sundaram and S. Varalakshmi have been elected as president and general secretary of the Karnataka State committee of the Centre of Indian Trade Unions (CITU), one of the largest trade unions in the country associated with the Communist Party of India (Marxist).

First woman

Elected unopposed, Ms Varalakshmi is the first woman general secretary of CITU.

She is also the national vice-president of the CITU. A new 39-member state committee was elected at the three-day CITU State conference held at Ambedkar Bhavan in Hassan on November 13, 14 and 15.

P.K. Parameshwar was elected treasurer. The committee comprises 14 vice-chairpersons and 20 secretaries, with two positions remaining vacant.

Seven women are part of the committee.

The conference saw demands such as a minimum wage of ₹36,000, scientific support for farmers, proper implementation of The Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act and withdrawal of the new labour codes.

Newborn falls to death

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

An infant died after it allegedly fell on the ground soon after birth in the district hospital in Haveri on Tuesday.

Roopa Karabannanavar, 30, from Kakol village near Ranebennur, had come to the hospital for delivery. But she could not be admitted as the obstetrics and gynaecology ward was full.

She reportedly gave birth to the baby in the corridor.

The infant fell to the ground and suffered serious injuries. It died in minutes.

The woman's relatives have complained that neither the doctors nor the staff tried to help her, despite being told repeatedly that she was suffering from intense pain.

Speaker to hear responses on disqualification pleas

M. Rajeev
HYDERABAD

Telangana Assembly Speaker Gaddam Prasad Kumar is all set to hear the arguments on disqualification petitions filed against four Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) legislators who allegedly defected to the ruling Congress on Wednesday.

The Speaker, chairing the Tribunal constituted under Tenth Schedule of the Constitution, will hear the responses by the advocates of the petitioners and respondents. He will take on record the responses of MLAs Tellam Venkat Rao and M. Sanjay Kumar on Wednesday in two separate sessions followed by those from Pocharam Srinivas Reddy and Arekapudi Gandhi the next day.

Gaddam Prasad Kumar

This marks the final stage of hearing into the petitions filed against eight of the 10 BRS legislators by the main opposition party.

Two MLAs Danam Nagender and Kadiyam Srihari have not responded to the notices served by the Speaker.

The development assumes significance in the light of Supreme Court Chief Justice B.R. Gavai setting one-week deadline for the Speaker to complete the hearings and announce his decision. The Chief Justice was angry that the Tribunal did not take action within the October 31 deadline set by him.

Assembly sources however said the Speaker's office is yet to receive the notice from the Supreme Court so far. But the Speaker had decided to speed up the process.

Sabarimala gets more regulations for crowd control as lapses cause chaos

The Hindu Bureau
PATHANAMTHITTA

Crowd management measures at the Sabarimala Ayyappa temple were stretched to their limits on the second day of the annual pilgrimage season on Tuesday with the entire pilgrimage zone overwhelmed by an extraordinary surge of devotees.

The rush was so intense that the entire stretch from Nilackal to the Sannidhanam witnessed an unprecedented inflow of pilgrims, keeping the police and Travancore Devaswom Board (TDB) officials on their toes. Many devotees, including young children and elderly women, were forced to stand in queues for up to 14 hours to have darshan.

People arrive to offers prayers at the Sabarimala temple during the Malayalam month of 'Vrischikam' in Pathanamthitta on Tuesday. PTI

Roads leading to the hill temple remained gridlocked as the police, in an attempt to manage the crowds at Pampa and the Sannidhanam, stopped vehicles at various points. Stranded in their vehicles for hours, the pilgrims were left without access to food or drinking water.

Although authorities have capped the daily pilgrim quota at 90,000, including 70,000 virtual queue bookings, the actual turnout has exceeded this limit, a Travancore Devaswom Board (TDB) official confirmed. Due to lapses in crowd control, barricades placed before the 18 holy steps were breached, creating a precarious situation.

TDB president K. Jayakumar described the situation as alarming and attributed the chaos to inadequate preparatory measures. The board has now extended has now darshan timings by an hour in the afternoon.

The TDB has initiated steps to regulate the flow of pilgrims, strictly limiting spot booking to 20,000 per day and making better use of the queue complexes along the trekking path.

Excessive dependence

A structural shift in India's trade portfolio is essential

India's record goods trade deficit in October ($41.68 billion) follows a sequential build-up from September ($32.15 billion), reflecting a disturbing turn in its external trade landscape. The shock from the U.S.'s tariffs has been largely responsible – a full 50% levy that came into effect in August – at a time when the U.S. had become India's largest single export market (since about 2018-19). But the main cause of the 11.8% year-on-year (YoY) drop in goods exports to $34.38 billion ($38.98 billion in October 2024) and the precipitous rise in imports lies in a record surge in precious metal inflows. Gold imports nearly tripled from last October ($4.92 billion) and inbound silver rose more than fivefold. This suggests that the bullion surge is not merely seasonal but also a hedge against growing economic uncertainty. The rupee's weakening from about ₹85.6 to a dollar in April to around ₹88.4 to a dollar in October, and the net foreign portfolio outflow in September (leading into a recovery in October) further corroborate the hedging. What is troubling about October's merchandise data is the steep fall in exports of labour-intensive sectors such as textiles and apparel – cotton yarn and handlooms 13.31%; man-made yarn 11.75%; readymade garments 12.88%, and engineering goods 16.71%. The U.S. has been the largest market for these sectors for some years now. Overall exports to the U.S. declined by 9% YoY in October.

The import surge in goods value is partly explained by the depreciating rupee but also strongly suggests the increased use of cheaper imported intermediate goods to keep finished exports competitive, rather than domestic sourcing. The detailed HS-chapter breakdown of imports by commodity and source country will elucidate this further. Meanwhile, the Centre has stepped in with export-promotion initiatives, for ₹25,060 crore over six years, and the Reserve Bank of India has announced relief measures for exporters hit by tariff headwinds. Nonetheless, it is too early to conclude that this shift is structural rather than an immediate reaction to a major external shock. Rerouting of exports, new market access and supply-chain realignment take months if not years. The record October deficit may yet prove to be a blip, particularly if the India-U.S. Bilateral Trade Agreement is concluded swiftly and tariffs are rolled back. The steep drop in Russian imports (-27.73%) and a concurrent rise in U.S. imports (13.89%), suggest an attempt to assuage American concerns of a widening trade deficit, and to reduce Russian crude inflows. Even if the overall deficit persists, despite a thaw in U.S. relations, that would only point to a structural shift in India's trade portfolio. While painful in the short term, such a shift may ultimately be desirable, as India's heavy dependence on the U.S. export market has now exposed it to both diplomatic and economic vulnerability.

Bad tidings

The problems with India's mines are deep and structural

Sonbhadra is a name that indicates wealth and good tidings. As a part of a region straddling Uttar Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Bihar, Jharkhand and Madhya Pradesh – arguably India's richest in terms of mineral resources though not in human development – this district in Uttar Pradesh is also India's energy capital. It is home to some 6,000 MW of coal plant capacity – nearly half of all of Tamil Nadu's. On Saturday, a stone quarry collapsed over nearly a dozen workers in Obra in the district. The death toll is mounting even as hopes are still alive that some may have survived. The State government has ordered a three-tier probe by the district administration, the police and the mining department. An FIR has been filed against the quarry owner alleging negligence of safety protocols. But if there were indeed violations, what was the government doing? State disaster response workers reached the site from Mirzapur, making a case for their local stationing in an area that has over a dozen stone quarries and other mines such as coal along the Vindhyas-Kaimur hill range. Questions have been raised about the level of safety training of workers and them having adequate safety gear.

But the problems are deeper and structural. Opposition allegations of rampant illegal quarrying are not fanciful stuff. Stone quarries represent the lowest end of mining, and often the least safety conscious. Stone quarry contractors are often small-time operators. Ideally, micro geological studies need to be done to plan the cutting. These studies will clearly flesh out the weak joints and fracture lines on hill slopes where cutting should be avoided. The government may do broad and general geological studies at the macro level before leasing the blocks. But once contracts are given out, micro studies, say at the square kilometre level, are rarely done by the individual contractors. It is just luck that there are not many more accidents, geologists point out. Blasting design is a science that accurately assesses the size and throw of explosives needed and, therefore, at what distance the explosives should be set off. But explosive size and distance are often just rule of thumb decisions. Such open mines need to be benched – small horizontal plateaus cut along the slope of a hill. This ensures safety and decreases chances of a wholesale quarry collapse, as in Obra. Investigators will need to find out to what extent these basic measures were followed not just at the site but across the region. Ironically enough, some of the best minds and technologies are available at IIT (ISM) Dhanbad. Whether there is political will to leverage them fully in the area is the bigger question.

Time to sort out India's cereal mess

T. Ramakrishnan

The recent controversy in Tamil Nadu over paddy procurement during the short-term *kuruvai* season has only strengthened the need for a relook at the procurement system of foodgrains as a whole. In this case – as in many States – the Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation (TNCSC), which procures paddy on behalf of the Food Corporation of India (FCI), found itself in a spot because of time overruns and charges of corruption. One of the reasons cited is the rise in the coverage of the crop during the season, by about two lakh acres, which was known as early as mid-August. This is because farmers feel it is a safe bet to grow paddy rather than other crops due to minimum assured returns.

Paddy procurement data

The glut is not restricted to Tamil Nadu. Going by the data of the Union Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, the procurement of paddy (in terms of rice) all over the country was nearly 119.86 lakh tonnes as on October 31, 2025 compared to 82.08 lakh tonnes on the corresponding day last year. In the last three years, with regard to rice and wheat, the quarterly opening stock position, as on October 1, was consistently higher than what is prescribed under the norms for the central pool. In the case of rice, the quantity is at least two times more than the requirement. In October this year, the stock was 356.1 lakh tonnes against the norm of 102.5 lakh tonnes.

Compared to wheat, rice is still abundant, if one goes by the Union government's data for the last three years on procurement and offtake under the National Food Security Act (NFSA) and other schemes. Between April 2022 and March 2025, the procurement of rice at the all-India level hovered around 525 lakh tonnes-547 lakh tonnes every year, whereas annual offtake under the Public Distribution System (PDS) was in the range of 392 lakh tonnes- 427 lakh tonnes.

Significantly, in the case of wheat, the utilisation under the PDS exceeded the quantity of procurement in two of the last three years (barring 2024-25). At the same time, it must be noted that the Union government spends around ₹2 lakh crore every year in food subsidy.

While, on the one hand, the country is grappling with surplus stocks of rice, on the other it is incurring a huge expenditure in the import of pulses and oilseeds, which are two essential commodities that are central in every Indian household. Ironically, in the case of pulses, India is the largest producer in the world – 252.4 lakh tonnes in 2024-25. The two years, from 2023-24, saw a substantial fall in the procurement of notified pulses at minimum support prices (MSP) through agencies which included the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India.

It is a case of paradoxes — India has huge stocks of rice, and also imports large quantities of pulses and oilseeds despite being one of the world's largest producers

Edible oil imports

According to the annual report of the Union Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare for 2024-25, the country imported edible oil (₹1.2 lakh crore) and pulses (₹30,000 crore) during 2023-24. In the case of edible oil, about 55% of the demand is met only through imports. Needless to say, the Russia-Ukraine war, which began in February 2022, is a factor that contributed to the steep rise in the cost of edible oil imports which was around ₹82,000 crore in 2020-21, though the quantity imported remained between 135 lakh tonnes-157 lakh tonnes a year in the last six years.

Ironically, the country's production of oilseeds, since 2014, crossed the 400-lakh-tonne mark only once, despite there being no large change in the area covered, which was around 25 million hectares. For about 25 years, experts and the media have been holding the government's decision in the 1990s to allow the import of cheaper edible oil responsible for the adverse effect on domestic production. Yet, the response to counter the impact has not been adequate.

The situation raises a fundamental question: whether the country, in the name of ensuring food security, is following a sustainable policy of procurement at least with regard to rice. It also raises other pertinent questions. Is paddy cultivation being encouraged at the cost of crop rotation? Also, why is it that the country's efforts to improve pulse and oilseed production have not been spectacular unlike in the case of paddy and wheat about 55 years ago? And, should India continue to have the existing arrangement of one or the other central agency in the procurement, storage, transportation and allocation of foodgrains in bulk to the States?

The authorities may protest, if any study is conducted with regard to leakage in the PDS (which was originally meant for managing food supplies during scarcity), as they did about a year ago when an Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER) report had stated that there was about a 28% loss of rice and wheat during distribution. It is also well known that the system is far from perfect.

Incentivise crop diversification

To wean paddy-growing farmers from the cereal, crop diversification can be tried out after carrying out area-specific market studies of demand and supply with the involvement of every stakeholder. . One reason why farmers have not taken to diversification in a big way is uncertainty about success if there is a crop switch. Their apprehension can be allayed only by offering financial support and proper guidance. As it is clear that the country is producing more rice than required, the government should allow farmers to freely export rice and not resort to restrictions in a knee-jerk manner.

Many a time, primary procurers of agricultural products are in the dark about the suppliers. For instance, *papad* manufacturers getting to tie-up directly with farmers who raise blackgram or have the means to do so, will result in a win-win situation for both. If such farmers are able to organise themselves as farmers producers' organisations (FPOs), the results will be more durable. The Centre and the States can facilitate such an arrangement.

As an institution, FPOs are still in a nascent stage. Their services can be tapped by the authorities for a range of purposes – educating farmers about soil health; sensitising them to go in for crop diversification; preparing the groundwork for market studies, and establishing the supply chain.

As in West Bengal, FPOs can be utilised for paddy procurement to reduce the load on existing players. Self-help groups and cooperative societies should also be encouraged more in this respect. Wherever required, all such new entrants should be covered under capacity building programmes.

Changes in such a complex system cannot happen overnight but a beginning can be made. It is time that agriculture experts, farmers, food security specialists, policy makers and planners collectively deliberated on ways to plug the loopholes in the system, if not reform it.

ramakrishnan.t@thehindu.co.in

Unpacking the global 'happiness' rankings

Souryabrata Mohapatra
is an Assistant Professor of Economics in the School of Liberal Arts, IIT Jodhpur, Rajasthan

Ankita Sharma
is a Full Professor of Psychology in the School of Liberal Arts and Coordinator of Rekhi Happiness Group, IIT Jodhpur, Rajasthan

Suman Dhaka
is an Assistant Professor of Psychology in the School of Liberal Arts, IIT Jodhpur, Rajasthan

Why is Finland the happiest country in the world for the eighth year in a row while India languishes at 118? How can Pakistan, which is struggling with political instability and recurring International Monetary Fund (IMF) bailouts score higher than India, the world's fastest-growing major economy? What does this really say about how we define "happiness"?

The World Happiness Report 2025, by the Wellbeing Research Centre at Oxford, again places Finland, Denmark, Iceland and Sweden at the top. India's score is 4.389 of 10, averaging 124 over the years; Pakistan is 109. The contrast seems puzzling against the economic and social realities of both nations.

India, with a $3.7 trillion GDP, is the world's fifth-largest economy; Pakistan's $375 billion GDP is barely 10% of that. India's digital economy is booming, and its infrastructure is expanding, whereas Pakistan survives on repeated bailouts. Yet, Pakistan appears "happier"?

Is happiness an economic measure, a perceptual one, or a proxy for something else?

The mirage of metrics

The report relies on the Gallup World Poll's Cantril Ladder, where people rate their lives from 0 to 10, linked with six variables – GDP per capita, social support, life expectancy, freedom, generosity and corruption perception. But perceptions are slippery.

Societies with low expectations often report higher happiness because people adapt to hardship. In vibrant democracies such as India, rising aspirations and constant media scrutiny can lower perceived satisfaction even as well-being improves. When citizens expect better governance or cleaner cities, dissatisfaction reflects higher expectations, not misery.

That paradox explains why the United States has fallen to 24 despite record wealth, while the Nordic nations with high taxes but deep social trust dominate.

The report itself admits that "belief in community kindness" and social trust predict happiness better than income.

Dissatisfaction, for instance, could reflect higher expectations, and not misery

India's challenge, then, is not growth but connection. Nearly 19% of young adults globally say they have no one to rely on – up 39% since 2006. With migration and digital life reshaping relationships, Indians too face shrinking real-world networks and expanding virtual ones – prosperity without proximity.

The politics of perception

Critics note that global indices rest on perception-based biases. A 2022 paper by the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (Sanjeev Sanyal and Aakanksha Arora) showed that indices such as Freedom House and V-Dem depend on small, opaque pools of western "experts". Their subjective views skew results.

A one-party state may appear freer simply because dissent is absent; media-controlled regimes look "stable" because citizens voice fewer complaints. Democracies, by contrast, are penalised for openness. The World Happiness Report risks repeating that error – valuing calm conformity over democratic cacophony. India's low score may reflect self-critical awareness – a maturing democracy unwilling to be complacent.

India's rank has swung between 94th and 144th in a decade. The best phase came in 2022 with post-COVID-19 pandemic recovery and welfare programmes such as Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana. The worst was in 2012 amid corruption scandals and slowdown. But happiness rarely tracks fiscal performance. Studies show that social trust, fairness and community matter far more.

In Finland, people believe a lost wallet will be returned – a proxy for institutional trust. In India, governance unevenness erodes that confidence, though local and familial trust remain strong. The COVID-19 lockdown exposed this: millions returned to villages not only for work loss but because community bonds offered the security absent in cities. Such informal trust, ignored by global metrics, sustains resilience.

The report's behavioural framework also carries the WEIRD bias – Western, Educated, Industrialised, Rich and Democratic. It privileges institutional trust that is typical of individualistic societies and overlooks collective trust networks in countries such as India, where family and community are the real safety nets.

Even so, institutional trust is evolving. Campaigns around mental health, workplace wellbeing and inclusion mark a cultural shift. Programmes such as Tele-MANAS (Tele Mental Health Assistance and Networking Across States) and Mind India place emotional resilience on the policy map. Happiness, once dismissed as a luxury, is now a governance concern.

Aspirations to empathy

To climb the happiness ladder, India must pair economic ambition with empathy infrastructure – investing not only in GDP but also in GNH (Gross National Happiness) through three pathways. First, rebuild social capital. Create community spaces, shared meals and inter-generational ties. The report finds that household size and belief in community kindness significantly raise happiness.

Second, restore institutional trust. Simplify citizen-state interactions. When public services – from ration cards to railway tickets – work transparently, trust follows.

Third, recognise mental health as economic policy. Productivity gains mirror psychological wellbeing. The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that every $1 spent on mental health yields $4 in returns – an investment no economy should ignore. As *The Pursuit of Happyness* reminds us, happiness is not something we possess. It is something we pursue. India's restlessness – its debates, innovations and demands for better lives – may be the clearest sign of wellbeing. Less satisfaction does not mean unhappiness. It signals ambition.

If rank 118 means that Indians still seek cleaner air, fairer governance and fuller lives, perhaps the nation is not unhappy but just unfinished, still chasing a truer idea of happiness.

The views expressed are personal

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

What is missing

The Army Chief's remarks on "improving India-China ties" acknowledge the positive diplomatic efforts at play. However, I am compelled to critically address a concerning trend: our defence leadership's increasing reliance on headline-worthy, cinematic statements that play well on news cycles but contribute little to coherent, long-term security strategy. The public is left with filmy dialogues wrapped as policy, while the required democratic processes, critical debate, and transparency are largely absent.

In reality, India's approach of creating diplomatic dialogues and catchy narratives is rapidly being outpaced by the strategic evolution of its neighbours. The cyclical pattern in India's discourse is troubling: every time an incident occurs, promises are renewed with great zeal and, equally, quickly fade away. The headlines are replaced by routine denial or new slogans, with little to show by way of stable, institutional security architecture. Our public narrative seems to oscillate between reassurance and outrage, with a lack of substantive follow-through. It is time our policymakers and defence leadership embraced continuity, expertise, and realism above all else. Otherwise, India risks being seen as reactive, rather than proactive, on the world stage.

Aditya Das,
Bhowali, Uttarakhand

The sentence

The decision by the International Crimes Tribunal to sentence former Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to death appears blatantly prejudiced. Traditionally, ICTs include international judges or prosecutors to ensure impartiality. But the tribunal formed by the caretaker government under Muhammad Yunus had Bangladeshi judges, many reportedly aligned with the BNP. While Ms. Hasina must acknowledge her heavy-handed response to the protests, the growing influence of a radical politics and the violence faced by minorities after her ouster raise concerns. The verdict has not only undermined the credibility of the Yunus administration but also dealt a setback to Bangladesh's democratic process.

M. Jeyaram,
Sholavandan, Tamil Nadu

State of the Congress party

The Congress party has been aligning with regional parties repeatedly over the past few decades for immediate political gains. In the process, it has lost its originality with an inclusive agenda catering to wider sections of the society. Its credibility as a national party — as an alternative to the BJP — has also been compromised, with it playing the role of a junior partner to regional parties for survival. It is facing an existential crisis. It is high time the party chalks out an independent journey of its own with clear-cut policies. It may take time to get the dividends, but at least the discerning public would see a ray of hope for bipolar politics at the national level.

V. Subramanian,
Chennai

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the postal address.

The NH-701A highway is an ecological risk

A.M. Saleem Beg

Former Director, General Tourism, J&K, and Convener, INTACH

Roads have long been viewed as symbols of development – linking regions, opening markets, and connecting people. In mountainous regions, however, road construction is never a simple feat of engineering. It involves negotiating steep gradients, fragile soils, sensitive ecosystems, and communities whose lives are intricately bound to their landscapes. The challenge of balancing development and environmental sustainability is particularly acute in Jammu & Kashmir (J&K), where geography is not merely physical but deeply political and cultural.

In October 2024, the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) issued a tender for the preparation of a Detailed Project Report and for construction supervision of a two-lane highway with paved shoulders, stretching from Shopian to Magam. This will go through Kellar, Pakherpora, Yousmarg, and Doodhpathri – all within mountainous districts.

The case of NH-701A

On paper, the project appears to improve connectivity and integrate regions into wider economic and administrative networks. However, the Himalayas, and particularly the Kashmir Valley, are defined by fragile landscapes, high seismicity, unique biodiversity, and hydrological systems sustained by glaciers and snow-fed rivers. Infrastructure interventions in such terrains often produce far-reaching ecological, social, and cultural consequences.

The proposed NH-701A alignment cuts across forests, grazing lands, and water catchments, raising concerns about long-term sustainability. For much of its length, the road traverses forested and sparsely populated stretches where basic connectivity already exists.

While projects such as NH-701A have not been sufficiently studied, existing research offers important clues. A 2023 study, 'Qualitative Slope Stability Assessment of Hill Slopes Using Multiple Integrated Approaches along Bafliaz-Poshiana (Mughal) Road, Jammu and Kashmir' (*Journal of the Geological Society of India*), revealed a high probability of slope failure along cut slopes – particularly during heavy rainfall.

This finding pertains to the same terrain and geological conditions in which NH-701A is proposed. Although the official tender notice does not mention it, the project effectively extends the Bafliaz-Poshiana-Peer Ki Gali-Shopian road. According to the map attached to the tender, the road stretch connecting Bafliaz to NH-144A (the Jammu-Poonch highway, a key defense corridor) was transferred from the J&K Public Works Department to the MoRTH in September 2024. The rationale for this transfer has not been publicly explained, prompting speculation about the project's true intent, with some experts suggesting strategic or operational motivations rather than purely developmental ones.

Systematic evaluation

Under India's Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification of 2006, large-scale road projects ordinarily require systematic evaluation. The EIA process is not a bureaucratic hurdle but a critical safeguard, measuring potential impacts on land use, biodiversity, drainage, pollution, and community livelihoods. Importantly, it mandates public consultation.

However, in 2022, the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC) issued a notification exempting highway projects within 100 km of the Line of Control from prior environmental clearance. While justified on security grounds to expedite border connectivity, this diluted environmental scrutiny in regions already vulnerable to ecological degradation.

Even so, the MoEFCC's Office Memorandum of July 14, 2022, emphasised the continued need for safeguards. Subsequent Standard Operating Procedures, issued on February 6, 2023, clarified that EIA exemptions do not waive other statutory approvals. These SOPs mandate a range of risk assessments and studies including detailed slope stability and disaster management evaluations; eco-fragility and hydrological studies; geological surveys for tunneling; catchment and drainage analyses; and preservation of heritage trees or compensatory plantation at a 1:10 ratio. In effect, while the exemption removes one layer of public oversight, it shifts greater responsibility onto project proponents and State authorities for ensuring compliance. But so far, there is no public evidence that these processes have been initiated in the case of NH-701A.

The ecological risks are compounded by socio-cultural concerns. Yousmarg and Doodhpathri are vital grazing grounds for pastoralist communities such as the Gujjars and Bakarwals. A major highway bisecting these areas risks reducing grazing land, disrupting migratory routes, and marginalising vulnerable groups.

Hydrological systems in these glacier-fed regions are equally fragile. Road construction on unstable slopes can trigger erosion, landslides, and sedimentation, degrading water quality and disturbing downstream flow regimes. As multiple studies have shown, such interventions magnify risks in a context where climate change is already shrinking glaciers and destabilising mountain hydrology.

The proposed highway is thus far more than an engineering project; it stands as a litmus test for environmental governance in J&K. If executed without robust safeguards, it risks unleashing ecological and social costs that could outweigh its developmental benefits. Yet, if approached through integrated planning, inter-departmental cooperation, and community consultation, it could still evolve into a model of sustainable infrastructure in fragile mountain regions.

The proposed highway is far more than an engineering project; it stands as a litmus test for environmental governance in Jammu and Kashmir

What the Nuapada bypoll result signals

The era of Naveen Patnaik may be approaching its end

STATE OF PLAY

Satyasundar Barik
satyasundar.b@thehindu.co.in

A bypoll defeat in a small border district such as Nuapada may not ordinarily shift the larger politics of Odisha or the country. However, the slide of the Biju Janata Dal (BJD), one of the country's dominant regional forces over two and a half decades, to a distant third position delivers a momentous signal. Odisha's political landscape is undergoing a decisive shift, and the era of Naveen Patnaik, a five-time Chief Minister known for his gracious and measured politics, may be approaching its end.

The BJD supremo was widely criticised for not campaigning enough during the 2024 Assembly and Lok Sabha elections – an omission many believe contributed to the party's debacle. This time, determined to avoid attracting that criticism again, he hit the campaign trail in Nuapada, twice joining the canvassing for party candidate Snehangini Chhuria.

However, according to political observers, Mr. Patnaik's rare outings may have harmed the party instead of helping it. The former Chief Minister, assisted by two long-time security personnel, appeared tired and frail as he walked to the dais and struggled to read out a few paragraphs at public meetings. For many in the BJD, the sight caused disillusionment – never had Mr. Patnaik's aura as a mass leader taken such a visible hit as it did during campaigning for the Nuapada bypoll.

The party's troubles run deep. Gone are the days when securing a BJD ticket meant the election was as good as won. This time, the BJD struggled to find a suitable candidate after Jay Dholakia – son of four-term BJD MLA Rajendra Dholakia, whose death necessitated the bypoll – defected to the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). Mr. Dholakia polled 1,23,869 votes; the Congress nominee, Ghasiram Majhi, secured 40,121; and Ms. Chhuria of the BJD received just 38,408. The crushing defeat stunned the BJD cadre, though seasoned political observers were less surprised.

Mr. Patnaik entered politics soon after the death of his father, the legendary Biju Patnaik, who many Odias believe never received the electoral success he deserved despite his pivotal role in placing the State on the national political map. Mr. Patnaik benefited from this residual sympathy but has never been a hands-on politician. He has rarely engaged directly with workers or party structures.

As one political observer put it, Mr. Patnaik has always been an exceptional manager of lieutenants who delivered on his behalf. Initially, he relied on his father's trusted aide, the late Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer Pyarimohan Mohapatra, to build the BJD. After Mohapatra's ouster, he depended heavily on V.K. Pandian, the Tamil Nadu-born former bureaucrat, who came to exercise sweeping, extra-constitutional influence over both government and party affairs. During his long years in power, Mr. Patnaik benefited from the administrative machinery that executed his political and governance priorities with precision.

But now, stripped of power and expected to rally cadres and mount a spirited resistance to the BJP, Mr. Patnaik appears out of depth. Beyond beautifully crafted social media statements, he has seldom been seen interacting with workers or energising the rank and file. The Nuapada campaign is evidence of this.

Mohapatra wanted the BJD to grow as an ideological and cadre-based party. After his removal, the BJD gradually became leader-centric with no clear succession plan. The second-rung leadership was never empowered and remained subservient to either Mr. Patnaik or Mr. Pandian. Today, Mr. Pandian's grip is loosening as senior leaders publicly question his role. A former BJD Rajya Sabha MP and two former BJD Rajya Sabha MPs are now BJP MPs in the Upper House after switching sides. More people are expected to quit the BJD.

Every political project has a dream run, but none can continue indefinitely. At a moment when his active involvement is crucial, age and expertise are no longer on Mr. Patnaik's side. His charisma, aura, and reassuring political presence have waned to a point where it appears difficult for him to lift party morale or engineer a revival.

Mr. Patnaik's accidental entry into politics and his long, uninterrupted rule were nothing short of a political miracle. Today, a BJD heavily dependent on his personal charisma seems to be waiting for yet another miracle – one that will produce a new leadership capable of keeping the party relevant in Odisha's evolving political landscape.

The caste and class factors in the NDA's victory in Bihar

The majority of upper caste voters, OBCS (except Yadavs), and Dalits chose the NDA, as did a majority of the upper and middle class voters

DATA POINT

Sanjay Kumar

The landslide victory of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) in the 2025 Bihar Assembly elections has created a perception that the voters have risen above caste and class considerations while exercising their franchise. This perception requires careful assessment based on evidence.

One reason for this perception is that the NDA managed to win a large number of seats with a sizeable share of Muslim voters and also seats in a significant number of Scheduled Caste (SC) reserved constituencies. As a result, some people believe that the Muslim vote and the Dalit vote has shifted in favour of the NDA.

It is important to understand that a party manages to win seats with a large concentration of voters of particular communities on account of two factors: one, of the people of those communities voting for the party or the alliance in a big way; and two, of counter-mobilisation – people of non-dominant groups in that constituency voting for that party or alliance in large numbers. In Bihar, while the NDA benefited from the support of voters of a particular community in some Assembly constituencies, it also benefited from the mobilisation of voters of non-dominant communities in those constituencies.

An analysis of survey data (using PollsMap data) suggests that while Muslims and Yadavs were polarised in favour of the Mahagatbandhan (MGB), there was also a counter mobilisation of a large number of voters of other castes/communities in favour of the NDA's candidates. This also helped the NDA candidates win from Muslim-dominated seats.

In this election, the Yadavs remained slightly less polarised in favour of the MGB compared to the 2020 Assembly elections. Among the Yadavs, 74% voted in favour of the MGB, while only 19% voted for NDA candidates. During the 2020 Assembly elections, 84% of the Yadavs had voted for the MGB.

Similarly, there was some decline in Muslim support for the MGB as well. Nearly 70% of the Muslim voters voted for the MGB, while 7% voted for the NDA. During the 2020 Assembly elections, 76% of Muslims had voted for the MGB.

In this election, the All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) garnered 9% of the Muslim vote; this could have contributed to the decline in Muslim votes for the MGB. This appeared especially the case in constituencies where Muslims constituted more than 35% of the total voters. The Muslim vote was instrumental in the AIMIM winning five Muslim-dominated Assembly seats. A possible coming together of the AIMIM with the MGB may have resulted in preventing the split in the Muslim vote. But except these two communities, the MGB was unable to mobilise the voters of any other community.

The voters of other communities remained sharply polarised in favour of the NDA. Among the upper caste voters, 67% voted for the NDA, while 9% voted for the MGB. The upper caste votes were more sharply polarised in favour of the NDA in 2025 compared to 2020, when 54% of them had voted for the NDA.

Except for the Yadavs, all the other Other Backward Castes (OBCs) favoured the NDA in a big way. Among the dominant Kurmi and Koeri castes, to which Nitish Kumar and Upendra Kushwaha belong, respectively, 71% voted for the NDA and just 13% voted for the MGB. Among the 'lower' OBCs, 68% voted for the NDA and 18% voted for the MGB. The Vikasheel Insan Party (VIP) joined the MGB; this appeared to have only marginally helped the alliance in mobilising the 'lower' OBC voters.

It was not surprising that 60% Dalits voted for the NDA as two regional parties with a sizeable support base among Dalit groups – the Lok Janshakti Party (LJP) and the Hindustan Awam Morcha (HAM) – were constituents of the NDA. A little over one fourth (28%) of Dalits voted for the MGB. Overall, among all the major castes/communities, nearly 70% mobilised in favour of the alliance which they voted for.

Class played a role in shaping the NDA's victory. What seems to have worked in favour of the NDA was that it made significant inroads among the economically well-off section of voters – the upper class and the middle class. The NDA took a big lead over the MGB among the upper class and middle class voters. Among these voters, 58% voted for the NDA, while a little over one third chose the MGB. During the 2020 Assembly elections, only 38% of the upper class and 36% of the middle class had voted for the NDA. This time, the NDA thus attracted more voters from the middle and upper classes than it did in 2020, helping it establish a convincing lead over the MGB. Among the economically poor voters, both the NDA and MGB got around four of every 10 (38%) votes, respectively. Among the lower income class, 44% voted for the NDA while 41% voted for the MGB.

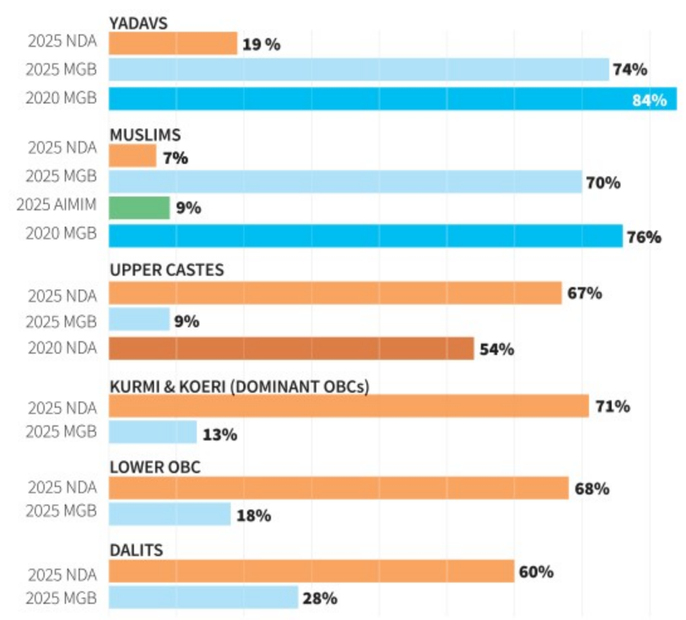
A combination of both class and caste/community helped the NDA get a massive lead of nearly 10% points over the MGB. The NDA had the support of a broader social coalition of 'upper' and 'lower' communities that propped it up well. On the other hand, the MGB had the support mostly of Yadavs and Muslims, although it was competitive among the poor and low-income groups.

Sanjay Kumar is a professor and political analyst. Views expressed are personal

Winning wave: BJP supporters celebrate after the massive victory of the NDA in the Bihar Assembly elections, at the BJP State office in Patna on November 14.

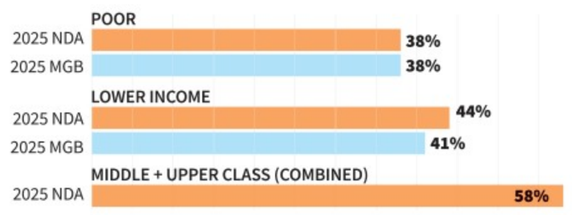
Voting patterns

The distribution of votes between the major parties/alliances across various caste and community groups in 2020 and 2025



- *Except Yadavs and Muslims, the MGB was unable to mobilise the voters of any other community.*
- *The NDA took a big lead over the MGB among the upper class and middle class voters*

The distribution of votes between the major parties/alliances across economic groups



FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO NOVEMBER 19, 1975

Search for minerals in Tamil Nadu

New Delhi, Nov. 18: A total area of 5,550 sq. km in Tamil Nadu, including parts of North Arcot, Madurai, Coimbatore, Salem and Tiruchirapalli districts, will be covered by the Geological Survey of India (GSI) during 1975-76 in systematic mapping for deposits of minerals such as sulphides, phyrrhotite, pyrite, iron ore and magnesite. The GSI will do detailed mapping over an area of 523 sq. km and carry out drilling of 1,000 metres for investigation of these minerals in Tamil Nadu.

The GSI's systematic mapping programme during the current year will also cover an area of 2,450 sq. km in parts of Cannanore, Calicut, Malappuram, Idikki, and Trichur districts in Kerala. It will do detailed mapping over 600 sq. km and carry out drilling to depths of 500 metres for clays in Cannanore, Quilon and Trivandrum districts and for graphite in Ernakulam and Idikki districts.

In Karnataka, the GSI will cover 4,350 sq. km for systematic mapping and this will include parts of Dharwar, Bellary, Chikmagalur, Chitradurga, South Kanara and Shimoga districts. Detailed mapping in Karnataka will cover an area of 1,182 sq. km and the GSI proposes to do drilling up to a depth of 6,000 metres for investigations for copper, lead, zinc and manganese, limestone, gold, graphite, magnesite, asbestos and magnetite in North Kanara, Gulbarga, Mysore, Hosur, Bellary, Bilapur and Shimoga districts. The GSI's programmes include investigation for limestone in Diu. It will continue the assessment of iron ore in Goa by integrated geological, geophysical and chemical surveys.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO NOVEMBER 19, 1925

Photograph in registration

Bombay, Nov. 18: An official communique states that the working of the photo-copying system in the Registration Department, during the last four years, has revealed certain defects, the most important being the small size of photo-copies and the consequent strain on users' eyesight. Besides, owing to the smaller contents per page, the average cost of photo copies in the mofussil is higher than that of manuscript copies.

From Page One

SC recalls verdict on green clearances

The May judgment held that granting retrospective clearances in any form to regularise illegal constructions was clearly illegal. The court had struck down a 2017 notification and 2021 office memorandum (OM) of the Union government, which in effect recognised the grant of *ex post facto* ECs. It had found the Centre guilty of "crafty drafting" to clear illegal constructions through retrospective ECs. The two-judge Bench had concluded that the government was only protecting the illegal actions of project proponents who started building or operations in these illegal constructions without obtaining the prior EC mandated by environmental protection laws.

'Demolitions not in public interest'

The Chief Justice reasoned that striking down retrospective ECs would lead to the demolition of multi-crore private and public projects either in use or under construction, employing hundreds.

Chief Justice Gavai questioned the need for demolition of these structures when they could continue by paying heavy penalties. Many projects, including an investment by the Steel Authority of India (SAIL), a 962-bed AIIMS hospital in Odisha, a greenfield airport in Karnataka, and the Central Armed Police Forces Institute of Medical Sciences in Delhi, were pending as a result of the May 16 judgment, he wrote.

"At the Central Government level, 24 projects involving the expenditure to the tune of ₹8,293 crore are pending. At the State level, 29 projects worth ₹11,168 crore are pending... It [continuation of the May judgment] will result in demolition of various buildings/projects constructed out of public exchequer to the tune of nearly ₹20,000 crore... Some of the projects are concerning construction of hospitals/medical colleges/airports and some are with regard to common effluent treatment plants," the Chief Justice said, justifying the decision to uphold the review petitions filed by the Confederation of Real Estate Developers of India (CREDAI), Karnataka, and the Union government appearing for SAIL.

'Why throw money in the dustbin?'

The CJI said judicial precedents of the court have held that *ex post facto* ECs cannot be declined with "pedantic rigidity". *Ex post facto* approval should not be withheld only as a penal measure, he said, adding that projects can be cleared retrospectively in exceptional circumstances and not as a routine. The top judge asked himself the question of whether it would be in public interest to demolish all these projects and throw the money spent on them into the dustbin. "The question, therefore, is whether such a modus operandi of demolition and re-construction would be in the larger public interest or would in fact be counterproductive to the public interest?" the CJI asked.

Justice Bhuyan dismissed the CJI's "dustbin" query, saying it was founded on erroneous logic. He said the "question" should be why the review judgment is so keen to "virtually prod" the Centre to grant *ex post facto* ECs to violators of the law.

Maoist leader Hidma, wife killed in Andhra

Hidma was killed by security forces 12 days before the November 30 deadline set by Union Home Minister Amit Shah to eliminate him.

"The Union Home Minister had set a deadline of March 31, 2026, for the eradication of the Maoist problem from the country. At a security review meeting, Mr. Shah also told the top security officials engaged in anti-Naxal operations to eliminate Hidma before November 30, and he was killed 12 days before this deadline," a source privy to the Home Minister's diktat said.

(With inputs from PTI)

Delhi suicide bomber seen rehearsing lines on the act

In a video believed to be shot by Umar-un-Nabi in Al Falah University on his phone, the doctor appears to be practising his statement and turns away the device when he loses line of thought

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

A viral video of Umar-un-Nabi, a doctor who is alleged to have caused the November 10 Delhi blast, where he is seen talking about the act of suicide bombing, is at least seven months old, officials say. The video was likely shot in April, an official said.

A 1.20-minute video clip, posted by a Hindi news channel first on Tuesday, shows Nabi speaking about "martyrdom operations" in heavily accented English.

A screen grab from the video recorded by Umar-un-Nabi in which he is speaking about 'martyrdom operations'. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Verification under way

Officials in the security establishment confirmed to *The Hindu* that the person in the video is Nabi.

The video appears to have been shot on the premises of Al Falah University, Faridabad, where Dr. Nabi had been working since 2023, an official said.

In the video shot by the doctor on his phone, he appears to be rehearsing his statement and turns away the phone when he loses the line of thought.

The National Investigation Agency took over the probe in the Red Fort car explosion on November 11.

On November 16, the agency's statement for the first time confirmed that Dr. Nabi was a "suicide bomber".

Sources in the Union Home Ministry till now suspected that the blast was not fully planned and did not cause as much damage as it could have, as the suspect was acting hastily under pressure of police raids that had already led to the arrest of two of his colleagues earlier.

The NIA's statement confirmed that this is the first car-borne suicide attack in the national capital.

Over the past two days, NIA has arrested two people – Amir Rashid Ali, in whose name the car involved in the attack was registered and another accused – Bilal Wani, alias Danish, who allegedly provided technical support by "modifying drones and attempting to make rockets ahead of the deadly car bomb blast".

Jasir Wani remanded in NIA custody for 10 days

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A Delhi court on Tuesday sent Jasir Bilal Wani, an "active co-conspirator" of suicide bomber Umar-un-Nabi in the Red Fort car blast that claimed 15 lives, to the custody of the National Investigation Agency (NIA) for 10 days.

Principal District and Sessions Judge Anju Bajaj Chandna allowed the NIA's plea seeking custodial interrogation of the accused.

Mediapersons were barred from entering the court premises as the proceeding was held 'in camera'. Wani, a resident of Anantnag, was arrested in Srinagar on Monday for allegedly providing technical support to carry out terror attacks, the agency said.

Govt. warns against broadcast of videos justifying violence

Devesh K. Pandey
NEW DELHI

Such broadcasts may encourage or incite violence, disrupt public order, and pose risks to national security, it says

The Information & Broadcasting Ministry on Tuesday cautioned TV channels against airing sensitive content linked to the car bomb blast, including videos of accused persons who justify violent acts.

The advisory was issued hours after an undated video purportedly of Umar-un-Nabi, a doctor who was behind the wheel of the car that exploded on November 10 near the Red Fort in Delhi, was telecast by some news channels.

"It has come to the notice of this Ministry that some news channels have been broadcasting content related to alleged persons involved in Red Fort blast, justifying their acts of violence, as well as information/videos of how to make explosive material," said the advisory.

"Such broadcasts may inadvertently encourage or incite violence, disrupt public order, and pose risks to national security. All TV channels are advised to exercise the highest level of discretion and sensitivity while reporting on such matters," said the Ministry, advising caution.

"Broadcasters must ensure strict compliance with the Programme and Advertising Code under the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995. Such broadcasts may violate the Cable Television Network Rules," it said. The Ministry flagged the rules related to content that is "likely to encourage or incite violence, contain anything against the maintenance of law and order, or promote anti-national attitudes; contain anything that affects the integrity of the nation".

"All TV channels are further advised to avoid telecasting visuals that could aid, abet, or promote unlawful activities," it added.

No bail in NIA cases if trial is concluded in 6 months, suggests SC

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The top court was considering the setting up of sufficient number of exclusive NIA courts.

The Supreme Court on Tuesday remarked that bail can be stopped in cases probed by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) provided trial is concluded within six months.

A Bench headed by Justice Surya Kant agreed with Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati, appearing for the Union government, that NIA investigates cases with national repercussions.

The court was considering the setting up of sufficient number of "special and exclusive" NIA courts.

"We will see these courts work day and night exclusively for you [NIA]," Justice Kant remarked.

The hearing saw lawyers discuss how special courts constituted to try offences under a particular special statute eventually have their dockets clogged by other cases, defeating the very purpose for which they were formed. The top court has repeatedly referred to the sheer burden of trial judges who have to multi-task – hear ordinary criminal cases while sparing the time to try terror and heinous offences. Delays in trial leave undertrials languishing in jails.

"Designation of an existing court or entrustment of exclusive trials under the NIA Act to such designated courts would incontrovertibly be at the cost of other court cases, including hundreds of under-trials who are languishing in jail, senior citizens, marginalised persons," Justice Kant had told the Centre in July.

ED arrests Al Falah Group chairman over money laundering charge

Devesh K. Pandey
NEW DELHI

Security forces outside Al Falah University's office in New Delhi during the Enforcement Directorate search on Tuesday. R.V. MOORTHY

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Tuesday arrested Jawad Ahmed Siddiqui, chairman of the Al Falah Group, in an alleged money laundering case pertaining to the Al Falah Charitable Trust, according to sources in the agency.

The accused has been produced before the competent court.

The ED's action came days after at least three doctors associated with the Al Falah University were found allegedly to be a part of a "terror" module.

Umar-un-Nabi, the driver of the vehicle carrying the Improvised Explosive Device (IED) that exploded near the Red Fort on November 10, worked at the university as an assistant professor in the general medicine department.

Mr. Siddiqui's arrest was made "following a detailed investigation and analysis of evidence gathered during search action conducted at premises related to the Al Falah Group in the ongoing probe" in the case registered under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act.

The ED's probe against the Al Falah Group is based on two First Information Reports (FIRs) registered by the Crime Branch of the Delhi Police, following allegations that Al Falah University, based in Faridabad, Haryana, had made "fraudulent and misleading claims of National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) accreditation with an intention to deceive students, parents, and stakeholders for wrongful gain".

It was also alleged that Al Falah University falsely claimed University Grants Commission (UGC) recognition under Section 12(B) of the UGC Act, 1956, with the motive to cheat the aspirants, students, parents, guardians, stakeholders, and the general public.

The Al-Falah Charitable Trust was constituted by a public charitable trust deed dated September 8, 1995, with Mr. Siddiqui being named as one of the first trustees, and designated as the managing trustee, as alleged by the source

"All the educational institutions (university, and colleges) are ultimately owned and financially consolidated under this trust, which is effectively controlled by Jawad Ahmad Siddiqui. The entire Al Falah Group has seen a meteoric rise since the 1990s, metamorphosing into a large educational body. However, the rise is not backed by adequate financials," the source alleged.

Earlier on Tuesday, the ED had searched 19 locations in and around Delhi, including the premises of Al Falah University, and residential premises of key persons of the Al Falah Group.

Its investigation has purportedly revealed that "large amounts of proceeds of crime have been generated" and crores of rupees "diverted by the trust to family owned entities".

On Bangladesh's extradition request for Hasina, New Delhi has several options it can exercise

NEWS ANALYSIS

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

As Bangladesh's National Security Adviser (NSA) Khalilur Rahman arrived in New Delhi on Tuesday, and Dhaka prepares a 'note verbale', the Indian government is considering its response to Bangladesh's demand for the extradition of its former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

During his visit to Delhi, Mr. Rahman is expected to meet with India's NSA Ajit Doval and attend the Colombo Security Conclave, which includes India, Sri Lanka, the Maldives, Mauritius, and Bangladesh.

Officials and experts are clear that Ms. Hasina – who has lived in New Delhi since last August – is and will remain an "honoured guest". However, they also point out that according to the India-Bangladesh mutual extradition treaty signed in 2013, there are many steps yet to be followed by the administration of Chief Executive Muhammad Yunus before the government needs to proceed. A big question looms over the legitimacy of Bangladesh's International Crimes Tribunal, which was set up in 2009 by Ms. Hasina herself to prosecute those accused of war crimes during the 1971 Bangladesh liberation war.

'No formal request yet'

In its statement reacting to the death sentence that the ICT handed down to Ms. Hasina on Monday, after her conviction for ordering the killing of anti-government protestors between

Sheikh Hasina

June and August 2024, the Ministry of External Affairs said it would "engage constructively with all stakeholders", indicating it will not be rushed into a definitive "yes or no" response.

"Let us be clear that so far India has not received a single formal extradition request," said Veena Sikri, who served as India's High Commissioner to Bangladesh from 2003 to 2006. "A press statement is not a formal request – the process for an extradition is very complex and legal," Ms. Sikri added.

Once a request is received, officials said, the government will have to assess it against India's obligations under the 2013 agreement signed by then Home Minister Sushil Kumar Shinde during a visit to Dhaka. That agreement was meant to smoothen the path for the extradition of criminals and terrorists wanted in India, including ULFA leader Anup Chetia, who was transferred to India in 2015.

Treaty exceptions

The 2013 agreement came as Ms. Hasina faced international criticism for setting up the ICT to try the killers of her father Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, and others who colluded with Pakistan during the liberation war, expanding the mandate of Bangladesh's International Crimes (Tribunals) Act, 1973. However, the 2013 treaty itself makes many exceptions the government could use to defend its grant of refuge to Ms. Hasina.

Another option would be to honour the extradition request and to initiate a process based on the Bangladeshi request. This would involve a full extradition trial, where Ms. Hasina would be able to respond to the charges against her, something she has been unable to do in Bangladesh.

Finally, New Delhi could choose not to accept the validity of the ICT. Under the extradition treaty, the warrant must be issued by a "judge, magistrate or other competent authority".

NCP leader murder: Anmol Bishnoi being deported from U.S.

Press Trust of India
MUMBAI

Anmol Bishnoi

Gangster Anmol Bishnoi, a key accused in the murder case of NCP leader Baba Siddique, is being deported to India from the U.S., a police official said in Mumbai on Tuesday. Bishnoi, also wanted in the case related to a firing on Bollywood star Salman Khan's residence in April 2024, is expected to land in Delhi on Wednesday, he added.

The Mumbai Police had sent two proposals about his extradition, the official said, adding there are multiple cases registered against the gangster across the country, and the Centre will decide to which agency his custody should be given first. This was a multi-agency operation and after being brought to India, the Mumbai Police will also seek his custody in their cases, the official said.

Earlier this month, agencies had got information that Bishnoi had been detained in Canada.

Several persons related to the gang headed by Lawrence Bishnoi, Anmol's elder brother who is in prison, were arrested in the Siddique murder.

3 Bangladesh boats seized for fishing illegally in EEZ

Saurabh Trivedi
NEW DELHI

The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) has apprehended three Bangladeshi fishing boats along with 79 crew members for illegal fishing inside India's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) in the northern Bay of Bengal.

The interceptions by ICG took place during International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL) surveillance operations on November 15 and 16.

Fishing gear and freshly caught fish on board confirmed ongoing illegal activity.

All three boats and their crew were escorted to Frazerganj and handed over to the Marine Police for further legal action, it said.

Nearly 99% electors have received SIR forms, says EC

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Two weeks after the second phase of the special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls began in nine States and three Union Territories, the Election Commission on Tuesday said more than 50.25 crore of the nearly 51 crore electors had received the enumeration forms.

The enumeration phase began on November 4 and will continue till December 4. The draft list will be published on December 7 followed by a claims and objections period, and the final list will be released on February 9.

The commission, in a statement, said 98.54% of the 50.97 crore voters in these 12 States and Union Territories had received the partially filled forms.

Six crore, or 11.76%, of the forms have been digitised as well. Goa has the most number of digitised forms, while Uttar Pradesh has the least.

The SIR exercise is being conducted in Chhattisgarh, Goa, Gujarat, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Puducherry, the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, and Lakshadweep. Of these, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Kerala, and West Bengal will go to the polls in 2026. In Assam, where election is also due in 2026, the commission announced a 'special revision' of electoral rolls on Monday.

Kerala approaches SC seeking to postpone SIR of electoral rolls

State says the 'cumbersome' SIR will coincide with the elections to the local bodies; simultaneous conduct of both will not only strain human resources but also create an 'administrative impasse', it adds; polls are being held on December 9 and 11

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Kerala government has moved the Supreme Court seeking a direction to the Election Commission (EC) to defer the conduct of the special intensive revision (SIR) of the electoral rolls in the State.

In its petition, the State said the conduct of the "cumbersome" SIR process from November 4 to December 4 would coincide with the elections to the local bodies in Kerala. The simultaneous conduct of both exercises would not only strain human resource but also create an "administrative impasse" with no personnel left to take care of the day-to-day functioning of the government.

The government said the simultaneous conduct would be a "near-impossibility".

"The SIR is a huge exercise requiring deployment of 1,76,000 personnel from government and quasi-governmental services for election-related duties and a further 68,000 police and other security personnel. The SIR is also a comprehensive process with cumbersome procedure, requiring the services of additional personnel numbering 25,668. The pool of trained and election-experienced staff is finite, which constrains real-world deployment. Parting with such a large number of officers for simultaneous SIR and local body elections is a near impossibility, apart from possibly putting the State to an administrative impasse," the State submitted.

Pressing concern: The Kerala government says the simultaneous conduct of the SIR and the local body elections will be a 'near-impossibility'. THULASI KAKKAT

SIR's constitutionality

The State government made it plainly clear that it did not support the constitutionality of the SIR. It said the exercise was "not conducive to the democratic polity of the country." However, the State government, represented by advocate C.K. Sasi, said the main thrust of the current challenge was not the legality of the SIR, but its timing. The government said undertaking the SIR would affect the smooth conduct of the local bodies' election. There are 1,200 local self-government institutions (LSGIs) in Kerala, made up of 941 grama panchayats, 152 block panchayats, 14 district panchayats, 87 municipalities, and six Corporations. There are 23,612 wards in total.

The petition highlighted the constitutional mandate under Articles 243-E and 243-U as well as a statutory mandate under Section 38 of the Kerala Panchayat Raj Act and Section 94 of the Kerala Municipality Act to conduct election to the LSGIs within five years. Thus, the process of elections including voting, counting, and declaration of result to the LSGIs in the State must be in accordance with the constitutional and statutory mandate, to be completed before December 21, the petition noted.

The Kerala State Election Commission has decided to conduct elections to the LSGIs in the State on December 9 and 11.

The elections to the LSGIs in the districts of Thiruvananthapuram, Kollam, Pathanamthitta, Alappuzha, Kottayam, Idukki, and Ernakulam have been scheduled for December 9.

Thrissur, Palakkad, Malappuram, Kozhikode, Wayanad, Kannur, and Kasaragod will go to the polls on December 11. The notification for the election was issued on November 14 and the last date for withdrawal of nominations on November 24. The counting of votes would be on December 13 and the last date for completion of election is December 18.

The State said the Chief Electoral Officer of Kerala had communicated that the personnel deployed for the LSGIs elections would not be engaged in the SIR exercise.

For the smooth conduct of the local bodies elections, a massive detail of personnel would be needed. These include local bodies' officers; personnel notified as returning officers, assistant returning officers, electoral registration officers and their entire staff; sectoral officers identified by the district election officers; the officers deputed for first-level checking of electronic voting machines; officers deputed for training in relation to the election; and officers to be appointed as presiding officers and first polling officers.

"These personnel should not be appointed as Booth Level Officers (BLOs)," the State said.

EC must show that it is not under BJP's shadow: Cong. chief

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Mallikarjun Kharge

The Congress on Tuesday accused the Election Commission (EC) of working on a "sinister design to destroy democracy and Opposition parties" through the ongoing special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls across 12 States and Union Territories.

The party announced that it would hold a public rally against the EC in Delhi in the first week of December.

The decision was taken at a meeting of the All India Congress Committee's top leadership, including party chief Mallikarjun Kharge, Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, and general secretary (organisation) K.C. Venugopal, along with Pradesh Congress Committee chiefs, general secretaries and AICC leaders in charge of the States and Union Territories where the SIR was under way.

'BJP weaponising SIR'

In his opening remarks, Mr. Kharge explained the need for a robust network of booth-level agents (BLAs) during the SIR process, and accused the BJP of "weaponising SIR for vote *chori* [theft]".

"At a time when public confidence in democratic institutions is already strained, the EC's conduct during the SIR process has been deeply disappointing. It must immediately demonstrate that it is not operating under the BJP's shadow and it remembers its Constitutional oath and allegiance to the people of India, not to any ruling party," Mr. Kharge said in a post on X.

Mr. Gandhi told his party colleagues that the EC's mandate was to give a fair and transparent voters' list, but it had shifted the onus onto political parties. "We must fight this politically, legally and organisationally," he was quoted as saying by an AICC leader present at the meeting.

Speaking to presspersons after the meeting, Mr. Venugopal said the Congress would expose the EC by organising a protest rally. "The design of the SIR is to delete targeted votes. This is a sinister attempt by the EC in this country, completely unethical, completely undemocratic," he said.

"During the first week of December, the Congress party is organising a massive rally in Ramleela Maidan with lakhs of people attending it."

BJP appoints observers for Bihar legislature party meet

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Tuesday appointed Uttar Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya as the central observer for the election of its legislature party leader in Bihar to be held on Wednesday.

As per a press release put out by the party, Union Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal and former Minister Sadhvi Niranjan Jyoti have been appointed co-observers.

Keshav Prasad Maurya

The Deputy Chief Minister had also been the party's election in-charge in Bihar for the Assembly election, along with Union Ministers Dharmendra Pradhan and C.R. Patil.

Major win

The Bharatiya Janata Party-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) alliance posted a major victory in the recent Bihar Assembly election.

The new State government is likely to be sworn-in on November 20 at Gandhi Maidan in Patna.

Will quit if govt. fulfils poll promise: Prashant

Amit Bhelari
PATNA

Jan Suraaj Party founder Prashant Kishor will observe a day-long silent fast on Thursday at Bhitiharwa Gandhi Ashram in West Champaran bearing the responsibility for his party's poor outing in the Bihar Assembly election.

Nitish Kumar will take oath at Gandhi Maidan as the Chief Minister of Bihar for the 10th time on the same day.

Taking the blame for his party's poor performance in the election, in which the JSP could not win a single seat, Mr. Kishor said the party could not bring a systemic change. He said that the Janata Dal (United) would have been restricted to 25 seats had the government not given ₹10,000 to the women under a self-employment initiative.

'Restricted to 25 seats'

"Had Nitish Kumar not given ₹10,000 to 60,000 beneficiaries in each constituency just before the Assembly elections and promised ₹2 lakh to 1.5 crore women across the State, his party would have been restricted to 25 seats," Mr. Kishor said.

> What position am I holding that I should resign? From which position should I resign? I did not say that I will leave Bihar
>
> **PRASHANT KISHOR**
> Jan Suraaj Party founder

The JSP founder said that he would "definitely quit" politics if the government fulfilled its poll promise and gave ₹2 lakh to 1.5 crore women in Bihar.

"The entire government machinery was deployed, and it was announced that if the government wins, they will receive a further ₹2 lakh to start a business. Now, I will urge the Nitish Kumar government to give the ₹2 lakh to the 1.5 crore women in the next six months as promised; otherwise it will become clear that the money was not given to them under a scheme but to buy votes," he said. He provided a mobile number, and urged women to call if they did not receive money promised by the government in the next six months.

Asked about his earlier proclamation that he would retire from politics if the JD(U) got more than 25 seats, he said, "What position am I holding that I should resign? From which position should I resign? I did not say that I will leave Bihar. I have left politics. I do not do politics, but I did not say that I will stop speaking for the people of Bihar."

"I am not leaving Bihar and will work twice as hard as I have worked in the past three years," he said.

Over 2 crore removed from NFSA list for free grains

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The government has pruned about 2.25 crore ineligible beneficiaries of the free monthly ration scheme in the past four or five months as it looks to make the programme more focused to benefit only the rightful, a top Food Ministry official said on Tuesday.

Under the scheme, 5 kg free foodgrains (wheat and rice) per month is provided only to the poor as a means for providing them monthly sustenance.

However, unintended beneficiaries – those owning four-wheelers, having monthly income above threshold or directorship of companies – had crept into the list under the National Food Security Act.

Food Secretary Sanjeev Chopra told presspersons that the exercise had been made to ensure better targeting of "rightful" beneficiaries.

Centre rolls out initiatives to improve PDS operations; AI platform to get feedback

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

It allows beneficiaries to share their feedback on ration distribution through AI-enabled calls

The Union Food and Public Distribution Ministry on Tuesday launched several digital initiatives aimed at modernising warehousing operations, improving supply chain efficiency, and enhancing transparency across the Public Distribution System (PDS).

A major initiative is the Anna Sahayata Holistic AI Solution (ASHA), an AI-based platform that allows beneficiaries to share their feedback on ration distribution through AI-enabled calls in their preferred language. According to the Ministry, the platform runs at a cost of ₹5 lakh, which is much less than maintaining a call centre to reach out to the PDS beneficiaries.

Union Food Minister Pralhad Joshi launched the schemes at an event in Bharat Mandapam. The government said through the platform, beneficiaries can report whether they received their full entitlement, the quality of foodgrains, and any difficulty faced at Fair Price Shops.

"The system uses multilingual translation, sentiment analysis, automated grievance categorisation and real-time dashboards for administrators. ASHA reaches 20 lakh beneficiaries monthly across India, developed in partnership with Wadhwani Foundation and backed by India AI mission via Bhashini's multilingual AI infrastructure," the government said.

'Reducing cost, time'

Mr. Joshi said that such initiatives support the government's mission of reducing logistics costs and minimising turnover time. He said the PM Gati Shakti programme has synchronised different modes of transportation and laid the foundation for an integrated logistics ecosystem.

Another transformation is the Central Warehousing Corporation's new enterprise resource planning platform, 'Bhandaran 360'. "Implemented ahead of schedule, the system integrates 41 modules covering HR, finance, marketing, warehouse management, contract management, project monitoring and other core functions," the government said in a release.

The Minister also launched the 'Smart EXIM Warehouse System' for container freight stations and general warehouses. ANNA DARPAN, a new microservices-based platform that replaces the existing Depot Online System, was also launched.

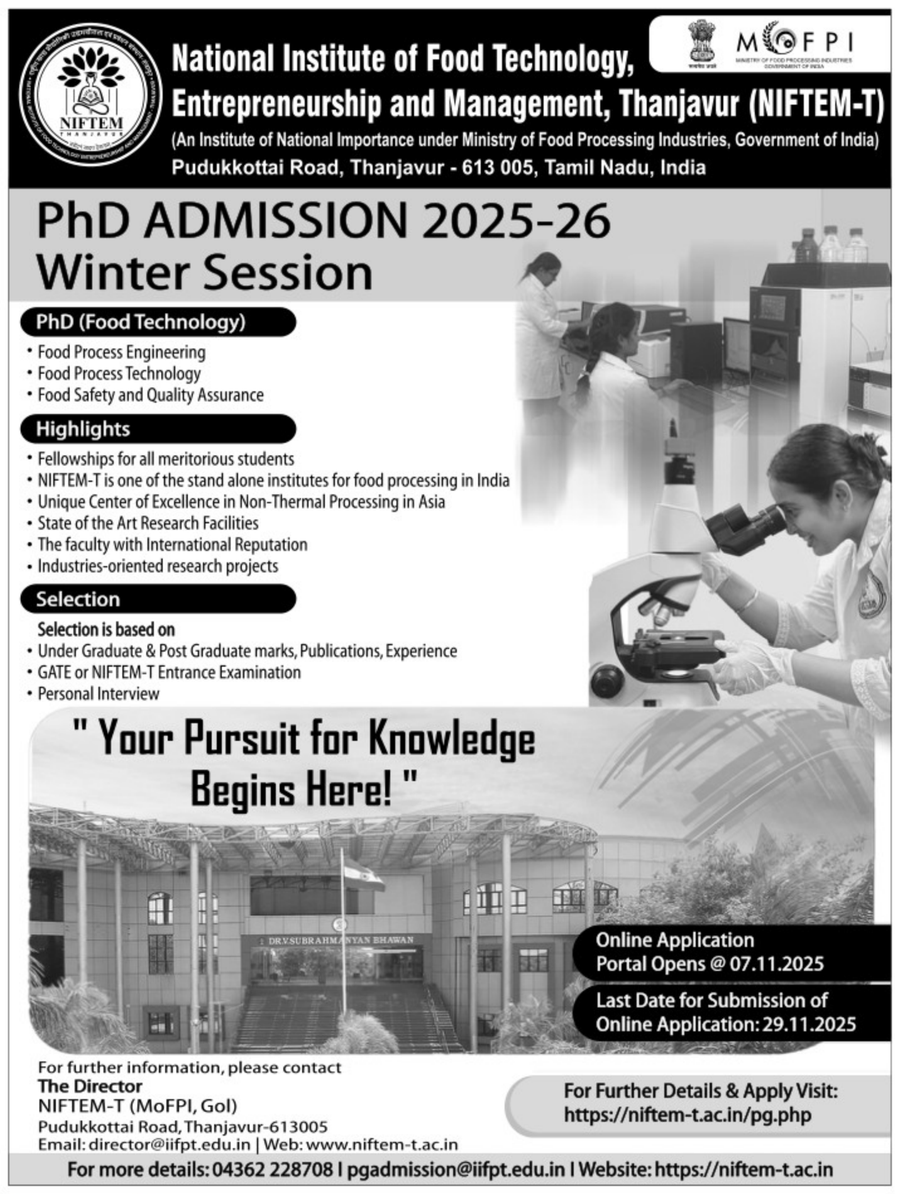
Tharoor lauds Modi's speech, calls it cultural call to action

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

In another instance of taking a different position from the party, Congress leader Shashi Tharoor on Tuesday described Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Ramnath Goenka Lecture as a blend of "economic outlook and a cultural call to action, urging the nation to be restless for progress".

"He [Mr. Modi] spoke of India's 'constructive impatience' for development and strongly pushed for a post-colonial mindset. PM emphasised that India is no longer just an 'emerging market' but an 'emerging model' for the world, noting its economic resilience. PM said he'd been accused of being in 'election mode' all the time, but he was really in 'emotional mode' to redress the problems of the people," he said.

This comes after he stirred a debate within the Congress over his remarks on BJP leader L.K. Advani.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INBRIEF

Centre launches updated plan to curb misuse of antibiotics

Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) is a major public health concern and poses significant risks, particularly in surgical procedures, cancer treatment, and other healthcare interventions. It can be addressed only through collective action, Union Health Minister J. P. Nadda said on Tuesday at the launch of the second version of the National Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance (NAP-AMR) (2025-29). "Overuse and misuse of antibiotics have become common, and NAP-AMR 2.0 aims to identify earlier gaps by increasing the ownership of AMR-related efforts, improving inter-sectoral coordination and ensuring stronger engagement with the private sector," he said.

Centre brings in new norms for compensating crop loss

The Union Agriculture Ministry on Tuesday recognised the modalities for covering crop loss due to wild animal attacks and paddy inundation under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY). Farmers' groups have been demanding that the government compensate for both types of crop loss. The Ministry said crop loss due to wild animal attacks would now be recognised as the fifth 'Add-on Cover' under the 'Localised Risk' category. "States will list wild animals causing crop damage and identify vulnerable areas using past data. Farmers must report losses within 72 hours on the Crop Insurance app with geotagged photos," the government release said.

Separate Section for disabled persons made in DPDP Rules

In the draft rule regarding consent mechanism, persons with disabilities had been clubbed with children; activists hail change but raise concern over lack of clarity on laws of guardianship

Aroon Deep
Abhinay Lakshman
NEW DELHI

Following pushback from disability rights activists, the Electronics and Information Technology Ministry has made changes to the Digital Personal Data Protection Rules, 2025, to separate persons with disabilities from a rule that, in a draft, clubbed them with children over consent from a guardian.

While activists hailed this change, they said concerns over the provisions remain. The notified rules do not contain illustrations on implementation to cover a range of instances where disabled persons may or may not be able to use the Internet freely. Further, the language of the DPDP Act, 2023, continues to group children and persons with disabilities together.

The DPDP Act, 2023, and the rules significantly restrict what minors can do online, such as setting up a social media account, without a parent's consent. In the draft rules, this requirement was spelled out in a section that included persons with disabilities, causing concern among disability rights groups.

Nipun Malhotra, of the Nipman Foundation, which has been advocating for changes to the Act and rules, said it was a "major victory" to have the Sections governing consent mechanisms for children and persons with disabilities separated. "The restrictions relating to behavioural monitoring, tracking, targeted advertising that apply to children do not apply to persons with disabilities any more. These are useful features for persons with disabilities," he said. However, he noted that concerns remain regarding the practicalities of implementing the rules and the language in the principal Act, where children and persons with disabilities are included in the same Section.

The part of the rules that deals with consent for children's data includes multiple illustrations of different scenarios under which consent should be obtained, along with a Schedule that exempts and clarifies these requirements. While the separation of the Sections has clarified that these restrictions will not be applicable to persons with disabilities, the Section for persons with disabilities does not have any illustrations to capture the nuances of how guardianship operates, a key issue with the draft rules as pointed out in a report by the policy think tank PACTA and the NGO Saksham Disability.

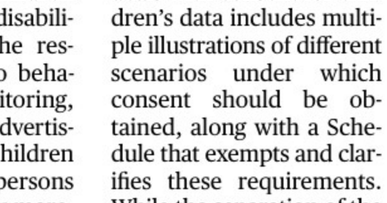
Another issue pointed out by activists and civil society organizations was that the draft rules did not clarify which law of guardianship for persons with disabilities – either the National Trust for Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation, and Multiple Disabilities Act, 1999, or the Right of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 – would be considered for implementation.

The Saksham report raised concerns about this, given that under the NT Act, the need for guardianship is partly determined by a person's "decision-making capacity", a term that the 1999 law does not clearly define. This, activists say, is not in consonance with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, while guardianship under the RPWD Act aligns with it.

Step by step

Some helpful reforms have come through in the Digital Personal Data Protection Rules, 2025, to benefit persons with disabilities

REVISED TERMS
- Separation from children in consent rules termed a major win for disability rights
- The restrictions relating to behavioural monitoring, tracking, targeted advertising that apply to children do not apply to persons with disabilities anymore



REMAINING CONCERNS
- No illustrations for implementation scenarios
- Language in DPDP Act still groups children & persons with disabilities
- Guardianship laws unclear (NT Act vs RPWD Act)

Indonesian Defence Minister to visit Delhi for talks on BrahMos

Saurabh Trivedi
NEW DELHI

Sjafrie Sjamsoeddin

Indonesian Defence Minister Sjafrie Sjamsoeddin is scheduled to visit India in the last week of November for a bilateral meeting with Defence Minister Rajnath Singh in New Delhi.

The meeting is being viewed as a significant follow-up to the major defence agreement involving the BrahMos supersonic cruise missile, marking an important step forward in India's expanding defence export programme.

A senior defence official confirmed that the upcoming talks hold considerable importance, coming after a series of meetings and reciprocal visits by senior military officials from both nations. Indonesia has shown strong interest in procuring the BrahMos missile system.

The development came to light after Defence Minister Rajnath Singh recently revealed in Lucknow that Indonesia had formally placed a request for the purchase of the BrahMos system being manufactured at the new BrahMos Aerospace facility in the city.

On October 18, Mr. Singh and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath flagged off the first batch of BrahMos missiles produced at the Lucknow unit. Officials noted that the Indonesia deal would be a major milestone for India's defence exports, showcasing the country's capability to supply combat-proven indigenous weapons.

Earlier, Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan met Minister Sjamsoeddin in Jakarta to discuss expanding bilateral defence cooperation.

'Global confidence'

Defence experts said BrahMos missiles used during Operation Sindoor to strike Pakistani airbases with full accuracy have enhanced global confidence in India's defence manufacturing.

The BrahMos missile has a range of over 290 km with a speed of Mach 2.8. It was jointly developed by India's Defence Research and Development Organisation, and Russia's NPO Mashinostroyenia.

Nearly 100 children rescued from Raipur factory

Shubhomoy Sikdar
RAIPUR

Over 100 minors who were allegedly being forced to work under exploitative conditions in a mushroom-manufacturing unit in Chhattisgarh's Raipur were rescued on Monday following an intervention by the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC).

On Tuesday, NHRC member Priyank Kanoongo said on X that tribal children from several states were being held as bonded labourers, made to work 12 to 14 hours a day and were exposed to cancer-causing formaldehyde.

When the police rescued the children, they said that they lived in tiny rooms in the factory . They were hardly provided any dinner. A complaint by an NGO prompted the probe.

Over 100 Indian universities make it to QS sustainability rankings

Abhinay Lakshman
NEW DELHI

The London-based QS Quacquarelli Symonds on Tuesday released its QS World University Rankings for Sustainability 2026, showing that India, with 103 universities, had the fourth-highest number of institutions in the list, behind the United States, China, and the United Kingdom.

The QS sustainability rankings, established in 2023, assess institutions across environmental and social sustainability categories such as environmental impact, social impact, and governance. These include indicators covering environmental research, sustainability, and education, along with equality, employability, knowledge exchange, and health and wellbeing.

Report card

India, with 103 universities, has the fourth-highest number of institutions on the list, behind the U.S., China, and the U.K.

- **Total Institutions Ranked:** ~2,000 from 100+ locations
- **Top university globally:** Lund University (Sweden)

TOP PERFORMERS IN INDIA
- **IIT Delhi:** 93rd in Employability & Outcomes
- **IIT Kharagpur:** 96th in Employability & Outcomes
- **Delhi University:** 94th in Knowledge Exchange

The rankings released on Tuesday showed institutions from the U.K., Canada, Sweden, and the U.S. dominating the top 15, with Lund University in Sweden taking the top position. This year's edition features close to 2,000 institutions from over 100 locations worldwide.

Of the 103 Indian universities featured, the Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi was the best performing, placed at 205. Overall, QS noted that India had 12 universities in the top 500, matching the number for countries such as China and the Netherlands.

While this is IIT, Delhi's highest position in the sustainability rankings since their inception, it is lower in relative terms compared to its performance last year, when around 1,700 institutions were ranked. Among the top 15 Indian universities in this year's sustainability rankings, nine saw their positions drop from the previous year's. These included Jadavpur University, IIT, Kanpur, IIT, Madras, the Indian Institute of Science, and others.

Across the 103 Indian institutions ranked, 30 saw their positions decline, 32 improved, and 15 remained unchanged. At the indicator level, IIT, Delhi (93rd) and IIT, Kharagpur (96th) made it to the top 100 globally for Employability and Outcomes. The University of Delhi entered the top 100 for Knowledge Exchange, at 94.

In a statement, Jessica Turner, CEO of QS, said "Overall, Indian universities excel in knowledge exchange and environmental sustainability."

India, Russia intensify consultations ahead of Putin's Delhi visit

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

S. Jaishankar and Vladimir Putin in Moscow on Tuesday.

Ahead of Russian President Vladimir Putin's visit to New Delhi, expected by the year-end, India and Russia intensified top-level consultations on Tuesday .

Prime Minister Narendra Modi met with Nikolai Patrushev, the Chairman of the Maritime Board of Russia, and discussed the annual summit to be held with Mr. Putin in December. In Moscow, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar met with President Putin on the sidelines of the 24th meeting of the Council of Heads of Government of Member States of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO).

"The parties discussed various issues of Russia-India cooperation, particularly in the maritime sector. The two sides emphasised their mutual interest in deepening interaction between Russia and India to strengthen their maritime capabilities," said a statement from the Russian Embassy in New Delhi.

In his remarks at the SCO meeting, Mr. Jaishankar highlighted the importance of "diversification" in the background of "supply side risk" that has increased globally in the recent months.

RSS chief likely to make his first visit to Manipur

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) chief Mohan Bhagwat is likely to visit Manipur from November 20 to 22, according to sources in the State government.

The visit is related to the centenary celebrations of the organisation, sources said. Mr. Bhagwat is currently on a three-day visit to Assam to attend similar events to commemorate 100 years of the RSS.

The visit comes in the wake of ongoing efforts to form a popular government in the northeastern State.

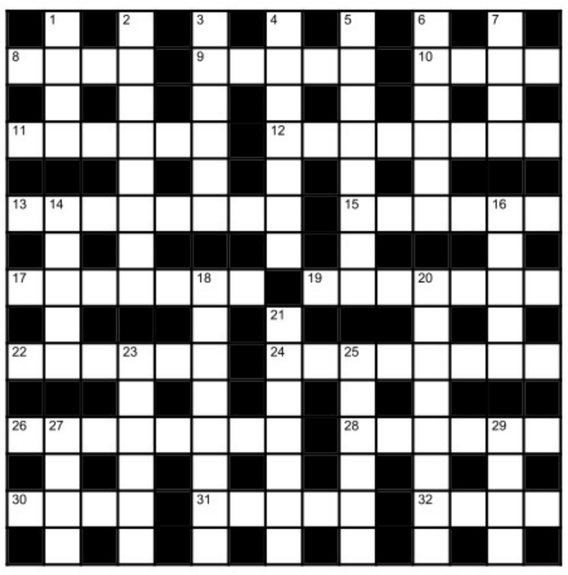
Mr. Bhagwat is likely to meet RSS karyakartas and interact with members of civil society groups in Imphal. This is the RSS leader's first visit to the State.

TH CROSSWORD + 14643

(set by Incognito)

Solve this puzzle online and access more puzzles at *https://crossword.thehindu.com*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across
8 Therefore, state makes broth (4)
9 Respond about part of play (5)
10 Removing ring, Oprah plays musical instrument (4)
11 Some Berber people wrongly argue after end of breakfast (6)
12 Violently simmers, consuming energy, to produce dips (8)
13 Bits of projectile maybe sharp and start to neutralise enemy lines (8)
15 Once confused about some blighters as a group (2,4)
17 In any case, child gets egg and five fish (7)
19 Refuse courteously and fall (7)
22 Vessel containing bits of radish, melon and marine creature (6)
24 Opened pound cake prepared without using egg (8)
26 Secret coteries reconstituted (8)
28 Chopping mango tree after sending away Tom results in anger (6)
30 Watering hole next to new shed (4)
31 Shakespeare's weapon? (5)
32 Sailor gets nothing for food (4)

Down
1 First eliminated from soft fruit squash and bean curd (4)
2 Come near a parish priest with an insect (8)
3 Mythical creature's pullover (6)
4 Cricketer Shastri joins ex-Nepalese PM to prepare stuffed pasta (7)
5 Postal ticket editor initially exhibited results in mad rush (8)
6 Supernatural being's revolutionary massage (6)
7 Release part of RAF reels (4)
14 Gut feeling that a person with kyphosis can have? (5)
16 Animal's weight (5)
18 Turn water into steam as I prove erroneously (8)
20 Damaged ale crate cut into flesh (8)
21 Come after triumph (7)
23 Indian Navy nurse's mean (6)
25 When Victor goes away, poverty may result in rhythmic composition (6)
27 Place to sit and prepare eats (4)
29 Dress from Annanagar boutique (4)

SUDOKU

			4	9			2	5
9			7	5				8
		5			6	1		
7				3				
	3						8	
				7				1
		4	2			5		
6				4	9			2
8	9			6	7			

No.SS6705 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

Solution to previous puzzle

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

3	1	2	8	7	4	9	5	6
8	7	5	2	9	6	4	1	3
9	6	4	3	5	1	8	7	2
5	4	7	1	2	9	6	3	8
1	3	8	4	6	5	2	9	7
6	2	9	7	8	3	1	4	5
2	5	1	9	3	8	7	6	4
7	9	6	5	4	2	3	8	1
4	8	3	6	1	7	5	2	9

FAITH

Yasoda's concern

Periyazhvar sang what are known as *kaappidum* verses. These are verses sung about the evil eyes that will be cast on the Lord, and the need to remove them. Periyazhvar sees the Lord of Thiruvellarai as Krishna, and visualises Yasoda trying to remove the effects of evil eyes cast on her son. In his verses about the Lord of Thiruvellarai, Periyazhvar uses *kaappidum* verses, said K.B. Devarajan in a discourse. Yasoda describes the Lord of Thiruvellarai as the One who resides in a place with mansions. She says the devas are waiting to have darshan of Him, and that He should, therefore, come in. She wants to ensure that His good looks will not be marred by evil eyes.

Krishna had been annoying little girls who were playing house and had playfully knocked down their mud houses. Yasoda had already warned Him not to quarrel with the girls. In case He is now afraid that she is going to punish Him for His disobedience, she wants to assure Him that she has no intention of doing so. That is not the reason why she is asking Him to come in. She has received numerous complaints about Him. Why should He continue to be mischievous? Instead, He should come in and let her do what needs to be done to remove the effects of evil eyes. "Please listen, oh the One who stands in Thiruvellarai. There are many naughty boys, who cleverly escape the consequences of their acts, by blaming You. Why don't You come in, where people who care for You are waiting to see You?" Yasoda asks. She further says, "When Kamsa heard that You were alive, he sent Putana to kill You. You escaped. But who knows who else he will send? So come in, oh Krishna, standing in Thiruvellarai."

INBRIEF

Physicswallah debuts at ₹145, 33% premium on NSE

Ed-tech firm Physicswallah Ltd. (PWL) debuted at a premium of 33%, opening at ₹145 on the National Stock Exchange. The company allotted shares at the price of ₹109 a share. On the Bombay Stock Exchange, the stock opened at ₹143 a share, a 31.1% premium over the issue price. The stock hit a low of ₹137 on the NSE and reached a high of ₹161.99 before settling at the day's close of ₹156. As of November 13, investors subscribed 1.8 times the shares offered.

UK Export Finance issues EoI for Dubai airport expansion

The UK Export Finance (UKEF) has issued a $3.5 billion Expression of Interest (EoI) letter to support participation of U.K. businesses in the $35 billion expansion of Al Maktoum International – Dubai World Central (DWC). Currently the second airport of Dubai, DWC is being developed as a mega hub to deliver an airport designed for the next 50 years of aviation growth, and will accommodate up to 150 million passengers annually.

PVV Infra signs MoU to invest ₹650 cr. in solar cell unit in A.P.

PVV Infra Ltd., which is into solar power rooftop installations, has signed an MoU with the Andhra Pradesh Economic Development Board to set up a solar cells manufacturing unit in A.P. at an investment of ₹650 crore. The facility will be located at Visakhapatnam, near the airport. It will be developed on a 30-acre industrial site within the solar cells manufacturing cluster. The investment is expected to create 350 direct jobs and over 450 indirect jobs, the company said.

Textile, apparel exports see sharp decline in October

Tariffs take a toll on outbound shipments, as supplies to U.S. buyers continue at heavy discounts; Centre rescinds Quality Control Order on viscose staple fibres, industry hails move

M. Soundariya Preetha
COIMBATORE

With the U.S. tariffs hitting hard, apparel and textile exports saw 12.91% slump in October compared with the same month last year.

While textile shipments last month were at $1,597 million, apparel exports stood at $1,069.42 million against $1,833 million and $1,227 million respectively in October 2024.

Exports of jute and carpets dropped 27.27% and 15.8% respectively, while cotton yarn, fabrics, and made-ups declined 13.31%.

"Many buyers in the U.S. who were placing orders with us regularly are still doing so. But, we are supplying at heavy discounts," said A. Sakthivel, vice chairman of the Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC).

Taper off: Jute exports dropped 27.27%, while cotton yarn, fabrics, and made-ups declined 13.31%. FILE PHOTO

"The garment exporters got the spring season orders. But, the summer orders are slow. Things may improve with bilateral trade agreement expected soon and the support measures announced by the Indian government," said AEPC secretary general Mithileshwar Thankur.

Cotton Textiles Export Promotion Council Executive Director Siddhartha Rajagopal said yarn exports to China did see a slight improvement, but supplies to other markets slumped. He urged the Centre to look at the textile industry as one integrated value chain and offer financial support to the entire value chain.

Meanwhile, in a notification issued on Tuesday, the Union Ministry of Textiles rescinded the Quality Control Order (QCO) on viscose staple fibres.

Durai Palanisamy, chairman of the Southern India Mills Association said that removal of the QCO would strengthen the manmade fibre (MMF) ecosystem and benefit the industry in the long run.

Revoking the QCO for viscose fibres and polyester yarn and fibres will address the price and availability concerns raised by the users of these raw material in the MMF segment, said Ashwin Chandran, chairman, Confederation of Indian Textile Industry.

PLI approvals

The Textile Ministry also said that 17 new applications for a cumulative investment of ₹2,374 crore were approved under round three of the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme. The proposed projects are expected to achieve a projected sales of over ₹12,893 crore and generate employment for about 22,646 persons.

FM holds separate pre-Budget meet with start-ups

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

For the first time, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Tuesday held a separate meeting with start-up founders and representatives as part of her pre-Budget consultations.

Prior to this, Ms. Sitharaman has so far held pre-budget consultative meetings with leading economists, representatives from farmer associations and agriculture economists, stakeholders from micro, small and medium enterprises, and stakeholders from the capital markets.

While the Finance Minister has met with these groups before almost each of the previous eight Budgets she presented, *The Hindu* confirmed with the Finance Ministry that this is the first time she has met representatives of the start-up industry in a separate meeting.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	TUESDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	84,673	-0.33
US Dollar	88.60	-0.01
Gold	1,25,800	-3.00
Brent oil	64.09	-0.24

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	2436.80	-25.20
Adani Ports	1495.00	-12.60
Apollo Hosp	7385.50	-102.00
Asian Paints	2906.00	18.10
Axis Bank	1265.40	15.80
Bajaj Auto	8921.00	-24.50
Bajaj Finserv	2050.20	-29.40
Bajaj Finance	1013.60	-13.20
Bharat Elec	420.90	-3.65
Bharti Airtel	2149.20	37.00
Cipla	1514.50	-21.10
Coal India	383.95	-3.90
Dr Reddys Lab	1243.80	-0.60
Eicher Motors	6814.50	15.50
Eternal Ltd.	306.15	-3.40
Grasim Ind	2762.00	-28.30
HCL Tech	1595.20	-11.20
HDFC Bank	992.45	-4.10
HDFC Life	761.80	-8.45
Hindalco	797.15	-10.00
Hind Unilever	2404.00	-21.00
ICICI Bank	1373.40	-5.60
IntGlobeAvi	5739.50	-133.50
Infosys	1486.40	-21.20
ITC	405.85	-1.25
Jio Financial Services Ltd.	305.95	-6.05
JSW Steel	1163.00	-12.50
Kotak Bank	2093.10	-9.80
L&T	3999.60	-28.10
M&M	3694.80	-40.10
Maruti Suzuki	15930.00	52.00
Max Healthcare	1116.70	-4.90
NestleIndia	1265.10	-5.20
NTPC	328.45	-1.75
ONGC	246.95	-1.10
PowerGrid Corp	274.20	0.65
Reliance Ind	1519.40	1.10
SBI Life	1993.30	-2.70
State Bank	972.45	-0.90
Shriram Finance Ltd.	820.20	2.30
Sun Pharma	1758.80	-5.10
TataConsumerProduct	1154.10	-24.80
Tata Steel	172.45	-0.72
TCS	3087.10	-15.10
Tech Mahindra	1422.00	-30.80
Titan	3879.20	10.60
Tata Motors PV	371.30	-1.40
Trent Ltd.	4374.00	-30.60
UltraTech Cement	11707.00	-71.00
Wipro	240.90	-3.15

Goyal looks forward to 'fair, equitable, balanced' BTA

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

India and the U.S. share an equal commitment towards expanding trade and commerce between the two countries, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said, while adding that there could be "good news" on a trade deal once it becomes "fair, equitable, and balanced".

The Hindu had reported on November 17, citing a senior official in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, that the first tranche of a trade deal with the U.S., dealing with the reciprocal tariffs, was nearing completion.

"Negotiation is a process and India as a nation has to secure its interests, and the interests of its stakeholders, businesses, and balance it with our sensitivities, our farmers, fishermen, and small industries," Mr. Goyal said while speaking at the 22nd Indo-U.S. Economic Summit organised by the Indo-American Chamber of Commerce.

"And when we find the right balance, you can rest assured, we will get outcomes on this score," he added.

The Minister highlighted the signing of a term contract for the import of 2.2 million tonnes per year of LPG from the U.S. as a sign of the "strong bond" between India and the U.S.

"They see India as a trusted partner," Mr. Goyal asserted. "We are both equally committed to working to expand trade and commerce between the two countries. When the deal becomes fair, equitable, and balanced, you will hear good news."

Apple India profit rises 16%

Apple India has reported a 16% increase in profit to ₹3,196 crore in the financial year ended March 2025, according to the company's regulatory filing shared by market intelligence firm Tofler. PTI

Russia to okay about 25 India fishery units for exports

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Russia is on course to approve nearly 25 fishery units in India, which will make them eligible to supply to that country, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said.

Recently, the European Union approved 102 additional marine product units from India for exports.

Saudi to get a new budget carrier

Jagriti Chandra
DUBAI

The aviation world's eyes are trained on Saudi Arabia which has made air travel and tourism the key pillars of its economic transformation under Vision 2030, and on Tuesday its aviation regulator announced plans for yet another airline.

Saudi Arabia's aviation safety watchdog General Authority of Civil Aviation's executive vice-president Ali Rajab said it would bring out a tender for a budget carrier based in Medina "in a few months".

The Kingdom plans to connect with 250 destinations.

He was addressing a conference at Dubai Airshow 2025. The Kingdom has already launched a new flagship carrier in Riyadh Air, which commenced its first flight with daily service between Riyadh and London last month. In July, GACA announced Air Arabia will launch a low cost airline based in Dammam with a fleet of 45 planes to be ready by 2030.

'Unmatched' change

"The transformation taking place in Saudi Arabia's aviation sector is unmatched," said Rajab as he enumerated plans to connect the Kingdom with 250 destinations, triple the number of passengers and establish it as a cargo and logistic hub.

To achieve these goals Saudi Arabia will enable more than $100 billion public and private investments. Various airlines of Saudi Arabia have more than 500 aircraft on order. The plans reflected "the impressive growth of low cost carrier segment to meet Saudi market demand," said Rajab.

(The journalist is in Dubai on the invitation of flydubai)

Wonderla Chennai to open on December 2

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

After nearly a decade since the signing a Memorandum of Understanding with the Tamil Nadu government, Wonderla Holidays – a renowned amusement park chain – has formally announced the launch of Wonderla Chennai built at an investment of more than ₹611 crore.

RCom bank 'fraud': SC notice on probe plea

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday agreed to examine a petition alleging massive bank and corporate fraud involving Reliance Communications (RCom), group firms and promoter Anil Ambani.

A Bench of Chief Justice B.R. Gavai and Justice K. Vinod Chandran issued notice on a petition from former Union government Secretary E.A.S. Sarma demanding court-monitored probe into the allegations. The respondents arraigned in the petition, besides the Union government, include the Enforcement Directorate, Central Bureau of Investigation, the Anil Dhirubhai Ambani (ADA) Group and Mr. Ambani.

"This is bank fraud worth ₹20,000 crore," advocate Prashant Bhushan, appearing for Mr. Sarma, submitted in the court.

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Please refer to the detailed advertisement published in the web site **https://iasst.gov.in.**

Registrar, IASST

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INDIAN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE EDUCATION AND RESEARCH, TIRUPATI
(शिक्षा मंत्रालय के तहत एक स्वायत्त संस्थान, भारत सरकार / An Autonomous Institution of Ministry of Education, Govt. of India)
येरपेडु मंडल–517619, तिरुपति / Yerpedu Mandal – 517619, Tirupati.

पीएचडी कार्यक्रम में प्रवेश, जनवरी - 2026
Admission to Ph.D. Program, JANUARY - 2026

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ई-निविदा सूचना संख्या 1 वर्ष 2025-26

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अधीक्षण अभियन्ता एवं पदेन परियोजना प्रबन्धक वाटरशेड सैल कम डाटा सेन्टर जिला परिषद् श्रीगंगानगर

राज.संवाद/सी/25/13970

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Schedule (Without Late fee)	03.00 PM on 18-11-2025 to 03.00 PM on 23-11-2025
Schedule (With Late fee)	11.00 AM on 24-11-2025 to 11.00 AM on 26-11-2025
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Sd/- (Dr.V.RADHIKA REDDY) REGISTRAR

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भारतीय अंतरिक्ष विज्ञान एवं प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान
Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology
[वि.अ.आयोगअधिनियम1956 की धारा 3 के अधीन मानित विश्वविद्यालय घोषित]
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No. RNT/Pur-I/F.16/(e-Tendering Proc)/2025-26/1627 Dated:-07.11.2025

Notice Inviting Bid No.22/2025-26(e-Tender)

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Memo No: 241/FTI-29/2021 **Date: 18.11.2025**

NOTICE INVITING TENDER
N.I.T. NO. 239/FTI-29 dated 17.11.2025
Tender ID: 2025_WBTID_952516_1

e-tender is invited by the Special Commissioner & Director, Flying Training Institute, Transport Department, Government of West Bengal from experienced NSOP for operation of one twin engine AC air-ambulance helicopter on wet lease basis from 12.01.2026 to 16.01.2026 (5 days) for Gangasagar Mela 2026. Interested operators are requested to submit bid as per tender. Last date of submission of bid is 15.12.2025 upto 1500 hrs. For tender details, please visit www.transport.wb.gov.in. For online submission of bids, please visit website http://wbtenders.gov.in. Contact Tel 033 2262 7024 / 5416. / email id: director.ftiatnis@gmail.com.

Sd/-
Special Commissioner & Director, FTI

ICA- T23364(2)/2025

GUSH ETZION JUNCTION

One killed, 3 injured in West Bank car-ramming and stabbing attack

AP

A car-ramming and stabbing attack near Israeli settlements in the southern West Bank killed one man and injured three others on Tuesday. Israeli military said it killed two assailants. The victims included a woman, a man, and a boy. Hamas and Islamic Jihad praised the attackers. AFP

SEOUL

Seoul-U.S. sub deal will trigger 'nuclear domino' effect: N. Korea

AP

North Korea denounced an agreement between Seoul and Washington to build nuclear-powered submarines, saying in a state media commentary on Tuesday that the deal would cause a "nuclear domino" effect. South Korea announced the finalisation of a security and trade deal with U.S. last week. AFP

KYIV

Ukraine says it hit targets in Russia with U.S.-supplied ATACMS missiles

REUTERS

Ukraine's military said on Tuesday it had attacked military targets in Russia with U.S.-supplied ATACMS missiles, calling it a "significant development". Ukraine has not previously stated openly that it uses the U.S.-provided ballistic missile systems on targets inside Russia, although the restriction on doing so was lifted. REUTERS

ISLAMABAD

Pak. kills 15 militants in raids on hideouts in northwestern province

AFP

Pakistani security forces, acting on intelligence, raided two militant hideouts in the country's northwest near the Afghan border and killed 15 militants, the military said on Tuesday. The military identified the killed militants as "Khawarij," a term authorities use for militants they allege are backed by Afghanistan and India. AP

China vows to 'protect safety of foreigners' in the country

Agence France-Presse
BEIJING

Beijing on Tuesday vowed to "protect the safety" of foreigners in China after Tokyo warned Japanese visitors to be careful in the country amid a diplomatic row.

The spat between China and Japan was ignited by Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi's suggestion that Tokyo could intervene militarily in any attack on Taiwan. China claims Taiwan as part of its territory.

Asked about the warning to Japanese visitors, Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning said the "Chinese government has always and will continue to protect the safety of foreign citizens in China in accordance with the law".

UNSC approves Trump's plan for the future of Gaza

The resolution authorises an international stabilisation force and establishes a transitional authority overseen by U.S. President; it passed with 13 votes in favour as Russia, China abstained

Associated Press
UNITED NATIONS

The Trump administration's blueprint to secure and govern Gaza won strong approval at the United Nations on Monday, a crucial step that provides international support for U.S. efforts to move the devastated territory toward peace following two years of war.

The U.S. resolution that passed the UN Security Council authorises an international stabilisation force to provide security in Gaza, approves a transitional authority to be overseen by President Donald Trump and envisions a possible future path to an independent Palestinian state.

Global support: Ambassadors and representatives to the UN meet to vote, at the UN Headquarters in New York City, on Monday. AFP

"This will go down as one of the biggest approvals in the History of the United Nations, will lead to further Peace all over the World, and is a moment of true Historic proportion!" Mr. Trump posted on social media.

The vote endorses Mr. Trump's 20-point ceasefire plan and builds on the momentum of the ceasefire he helped broker with allies. Russia, which had circulated a rival resolution, abstained along with China on the 13-0 vote after fears Moscow might use its veto in the Security Council.

However, Hamas opposed the resolution, saying that it does not meet the "Palestinian people's political and humanitarian demands and rights".

U.S. Ambassador to the UN Mike Waltz said the resolution "represents another significant step towards a stable Gaza that will be able to prosper".

Trump hosts Saudi prince for defence, nuclear deals

Agence France-Presse
WASHINGTON

Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman received a red carpet welcome from President Donald Trump on Tuesday, on his first visit to the United States since the 2018 murder of journalist Jamal Khashoggi.

Mr. Trump laid on a noisy military flypast featuring F-35 stealth fighters that Washington will sell to Riyadh as the de facto Saudi ruler arrived at the White House.

Cannon fire and a parade of horses also greeted the Saudi prince as Mr. Trump doubles down on Washington's burgeoning alliance – and his own personal bond – with the key West Asian ally.

Mohammed Bin Salman

Mr. Trump has made a priority of boosting ties with the oil-rich Gulf kingdom, and said on Monday he would sell coveted F-35 stealth fighters to Saudi Arabia, calling it a "great ally".

The move comes despite concerns from Israel and warnings from U.S. officials that China could steal technological knowledge about the jets.

In another area of past contention, Mr. Trump will sign a deal on a framework for civilian nuclear cooperation, a U.S. official and a source familiar with the negotiations said.

Saudi Arabia is also expected to announce a "multi-billion dollar investment" in AI infrastructure in the United States on Tuesday, the U.S. official added.

During the visit, Prince Mohammed said his country wanted to normalise relations with Israel through Mr. Trump's Abraham Accords, but first needed a "clear path" to Palestinian statehood.

Prince Mohammed will have his own agenda, seeking firmer U.S. security guarantees after Israeli strikes in September on Qatar, an iron-clad U.S. ally, rattled the wealthy Gulf region.

U.K. Labour govt.'s asylum policy changes show cracks in the party

NEWS ANALYSIS

Sriram Lakshman
LONDON

The U.K.'s Labour government shifted further right on Monday after it announced a raft of changes to the country's asylum laws. The changes will mean, among other things, that U.K. asylum policy will follow Denmark's example, where refuges are offered protection on a temporary, not long-term or permanent, basis. The policy will also mean refugees will need to wait 20 years, rather than five, for residency and that asylum seekers' assets could be seized to pay for their accommodation.

The announcement has deepened rifts in the Labour Party. These cracks had already manifested after MPs revolted against welfare cuts earlier this year. It remains to be seen if the significantly tougher line on asylum will pay off for Labour electorally.

The announcement has also revealed how online rhetoric by what was once the far right is having policy impacts in Westminster and shifting the political centre to the right, mainstreaming ideas that the centre and centre-left were hesitant to go near, let alone own.

This week, some two dozen colleagues of Home Secretary Shabana Mahmood criticised the government's asylum plans. One MP, Stella Creasy, called it "performative cruelty" and another, Tony Vaughun, said the rhetoric accompanying the reforms encouraged divisiveness and racism. Some of Ms. Mahmood's party colleagues welcomed the changes, as did some Conservatives.

A group of migrants on an inflatable dinghy leaving the coast of northern France in an attempt to cross the English Channel. REUTERS

Ms. Mahmood has argued that the asylum system is "broken" and in need of fixing and that it was "destabilising communities". She has pointed to both, the years of Conservative rule before July 2024 leading to high numbers and the gaming of the asylum system by some migrants leading to the current state of affairs.

Asylum claims in the U.K. were up 18% in 2024 compared to 13% in the rest of Europe, as per official figures. Many, close to 40% so far this year, have arrived illegally on small boats across the English Channel rather than approaching the U.K. via a legal route to ask for asylum.

Divided country

"Illegal migration is making this country a more divided place. It is the job of a government to unite the country," Ms. Mahmood said. It has been argued that rather than migration itself causing the divisions, the whipping up of hate online, around this issue, especially by far-right figures, including X owner Elon Musk, is leading to divisions in British society.

Mr. Musk and far-right leader Tommy Robinson (real name: Stephen Yaxley-Lennon) have stoked divisions online and on the streets. Mr. Musk delivered a video message at a far-right London rally in September calling for a change in government and saying that people would have no choice but to resort to violence.

"Although his rhetoric is less openly extreme, [Reform UK party leader Nigel] Farage absorbs this energy, and he has taken up Robinson's framing of immigrant as 'fighting aged males,' which suggest that they pose a potentially violent threat," said Robert Topinka, a professor at Birkbeck, the University of London, who specialises in race, reactionary politics and digital culture.

Add to this, the fact that the Starmer government faces a challenge to its power from both inside the Labour Party and from outside, against a backdrop of migration continuing to be a top voter issue.

Mr. Starmer's popularity has taken a beating since he led Labour to a landslide victory in July 2024. Some 23% of Labour voters think Mr. Starmer should step down now, while 34% think he should continue to lead until the next election, as per a poll of 2,100 people conducted by YouGov for *The Times* last week.

Outside Westminster, Reform, which is anti-immigration, has overtaken Labour in the polls. Polling from Ipsos in September showed a voting intention of 34% for Reform – a 12-point lead over Labour. Some Labour and Conservative voters are moving to Reform, while a greater number of Labour voters are moving in the opposite direction – to the Greens or Liberal Democrats. This bi-directional movement away from Labour is evident from multiple polls. The party will be tested in local elections in 2026.

Risky strategy

Taking the lead from Reform on migration is a risky strategy – it could either be futile or backfire – according to Tim Bale, a professor of politics at Queen Mary University of London.

Ms. Mahmood has forcefully argued for the policies, saying she was not making a political or election calculation but trying to fix a broken system.

"...Research shows again and again that all that strategy does is to increase the salience of the migration issue on which the populist radical right thrives, giving voters the chance-...to vote for the original rather than the copy," Mr. Bale told *The Hindu*.

If the asylum policy changes do not improve Labour's polling but instead send more voters to the Liberal Democrats or Greens, Mr. Bale argues, the split in the party is likely to get worse.

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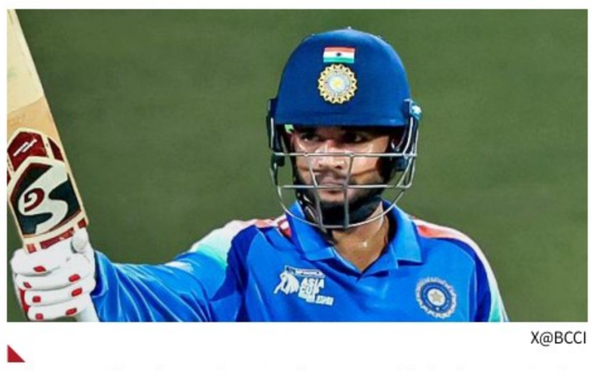
BREEZING THROUGH

India-A thumps Oman, enters the semifinals of Rising Stars Asia Cup



X@BCCI

India-A outplayed Oman by six wickets to qualify for the semifinals of the Rising Stars Asia Cup in Doha on Tuesday. **The scores:** Oman 135/7 in 20 overs (Hammad Mirza 32, Wasim Ali 54 n.o., Gurjapneet Singh 2/37, Suyash Sharma 2/12) lost to India-A 138/4 in 17.5 overs (Naman Dhir 30, Harsh Dubey 53 n.o.); **Toss:** India-A; **PoM:** Dubey.

POSITIVE START

Nawaz the hero as Pakistan downs Zimbabwe in tri-series opener

AP

Mohammad Nawaz (two for 22 and 21 n.o.) helped Pakistan overcome Zimbabwe by five wickets in the T20 tri-series opener in Rawalpindi on Tuesday. **The scores:** Zimbabwe 147/8 in 20 overs (Bennett 49, Raza 34 n.o.) lost to Pakistan 151/5 in 19.2 overs (Fakhar 44, Usman 37 n.o.); **Toss:** Pakistan; **PoM:** Nawaz.

UNFORTUNATE

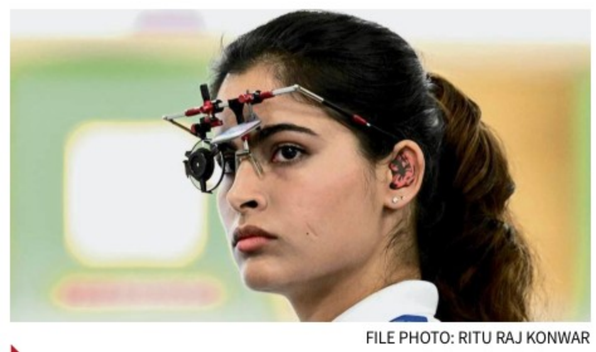
World No. 1 Alcaraz out of Davis Cup finale with injury

AFP

Spain's World No. 1 Carlos Alcaraz will miss the Davis Cup Final 8 tournament in Italy this week due to injury, he announced on X on Tuesday. "I am very sorry to announce that I will not be able to play for Spain in the Davis Cup in Bologna. I have swelling in my right hamstring, and the medical advice is not to play," Alcaraz said.

PRACTICAL

You cannot win everyday... I always cheer for India, says Manu Bhaker



FILE PHOTO: RITU RAJ KONWAR

Manu Bhaker has taken the failure at the recent ISSF World championships in her stride, admitting that she "cannot win everyday". "In sports, you cannot win everyday, sometimes you lose too. For me, it is all about India winning a medal, not me or someone else winning it," Manu said.

Arjun's fortunes hinge on tie-breakers

The Indian's second quarterfinal game with Wei ends in a draw; so do two more last-eight match-ups; Yakkuboev moves into the semifinals

CHESS WORLD CUP

P.K. Ajith Kumar
ARPORA (GOA)

Staying alive: Alcantara, who ended Harikrishna's campaign, and Sindarov are still in the fray after drawing both their games. FIDE

Of the four semifinal spots, only one has been claimed yet. The battle for the other three could very well see some bloodbath in the tie-breakers.

That is because all the four games on the second day of the quarterfinals of the Chess World Cup were drawn at Resort Rio on Tuesday. That also meant Nodirbek Yakkuboev of Uzbekistan became the first to reach the last four, that too on his country's National Flag Day. Since he had beaten Alexander Donchenko of Germany in the first game, he only needed a draw on the day.

While the Uzbek can enjoy two days of rest ahead of the first game of the semifinals on Friday, it is going to be a pretty nervous day of the tie-breakers for those six men who drew. Among them, the focus was very much on the second seed Arjun Erigaisi and the seventh seed Wei Yi of China.

The duo had played out a quick draw in the first game, which barely lasted an hour. Game 2 was a longer affair. And there was a moment that promised a possible advantage for Arjun, who was playing from the white side of a Semi-Slav Defence.

On the 24th move, Arjun had an opportunity to capture Wei's centre-pawn with his light-squared bishop. That would have perhaps given him more chances, but he played a queen move. The position now remained equal, and that was how the game ended another eight moves later: the queens were still on the board as well as a rook and two minor pieces each. The game between Donchenko and Yakkuboev was the last to finish after it had for a long time looked like a draw. The German, after his defeat in the first game, was in a desperate situation, as only a win could have given him an opportunity in the tie-breakers. Though he had white pieces, it was not going to be easy against an opponent who has played some fine chess here to exceed expectations.

The Queen's Gambit Declined game reached a rook-and-pawn ending, and the two men finally signed the peace treaty after 57 moves. So Yakkuboev has the distinction of scoring the only win from the eight games played over the last two days.

The results (quarterfinals, game 2): Arjun Erigaisi 1 drew with Wei Yi (Chn) 1; Jose Martinez Alcantara (Mex) 1 drew with Javokhir Sindarov (Uzb) 1; Andrey Esipenko (Rus) 1 drew with Sam Shankland (USA) 1; Alexander Donchenko (Ger) 0.5 drew with Nodirbek Yakkuboev (Uzb) 1.5.

Test specialists: is Team India missing the forest for the trees?

SA IN INDIA

N. Sudarshan
KOLKATA

It is a truism that Test cricket is for specialists. Concentration and patience form an important part of its lexicon not instant gratification and short attention spans.

But the playing XI that India put out for the first Test against South Africa at the Eden Gardens had no more than six specialists. It was effectively five because Shubman Gill suffered neck spasms and his involvement was restricted to just three balls.

Though it will not be entirely correct to blame the lack of specialists for the home side's crushing 30-run loss, there has been an increasing tendency under head coach Gautam Gambhir to pick players based on their second skill rather than primary.

Muddled thinking

This has often led to muddled thinking, and an absence of a consistent runs for players to feel valued and settled.

Since the start of Gambhir's tenure, India has seen seven different No. 3 batters, and left-arm unorthodox spinner Kuldeep Yadav went without playing a single Test in England because the team management prioritised batting depth.

Gambhir. PTI

Currently, the squad doesn't have a reserve opener. Should one of K.L. Rahul or Yashasvi Jaiswal pull up last moment, who will the think-tank turn to?

For the second Test beginning November 22 in Guwahati, there is a fair chance that India may line up another all-rounder in Nitish Kumar to cover for Gill's potential absence.

A straight-forward replacement would be either B. Sai Sudharsan or Devdutt Padikkal, but that would mean five of the top-six batters will be southpaws.

In an era where 'match-ups' - like bowling an off-spinner to left-hand batters and not using left-arm spinners - disproportionately influence selections, it is anybody's guess as to who will play.

Simon Harmer, Player-of-the-Match at Eden for his eight wickets, dismissed six lefties. But shouldn't India's batters be better equipped to handle a spinner who - with all due respect - is yet to prove himself world-class and has played just 13 Tests?

What's worse is that India doesn't even have a specialist right-hand middle-order batter in the roster, should it want to avoid the above 'match-up'. Sarfaraz Khan - who has three half-centuries and a 150 in 11 innings for India - is not in the side for reasons unexplained and Karun Nair has been dropped. Both have good track records of playing spin bowling, an area India was found wanting in.

In December 2018, Gambhir, when asked about India's then on-going experiments with its opening combination in Tests, said: "I believe in security. Give them a proper run and see if they belong to the level. If they don't, get somebody else and give them the same run. You have to be fair to everyone."

Time to walk that talk?

No back-up even if Gill pulls out of Test

Amol Karhadkar
MUMBAI

India skipper Shubman Gill remains a doubtful starter for the crucial second Test against South Africa beginning on November 22 in Guwahati. Despite the uncertainty, the selection committee is unlikely to summon a back-up batter for the series decider.

Although Gill has been discharged from a Kolkata hospital, the team management and selectors are unlikely to risk him unless he is fully fit given the sensitive nature of neck injuries and a packed international calendar till the T20 World Cup (February-March 2026). A final call on his availability is expected to be taken on Thursday.

Even if Gill is ruled out, the selectors do not plan to fly in an additional batter as India already has enough resources. The reserves for the Kolkata Test included specialist batters B. Sai Sudharsan and Devdutt Padikkal. Nitish Kumar is likely to rejoin the squad in Guwahati after being released for the India-A one-day series against South Africa-A.

Gill... the suspense continues. K.R. DEEPAK

Stunning win: Parveen shocked Poland's Rygielska in a hard-fought duel. X@BFI_OFFICIAL

Parveen, Arundhati and Preeti lead the way for India

WBCF

Y.B. Sarangi
GREATER NOIDA

The promising trio of Parveen Hooda (60kg), Arundhati Choudhary (70kg) and Preeti Pawar (54kg) stunned accomplished opponents to enter finals and make a statement on their international return in the World Boxing Cup Finals at the Shaheed Vijay Singh Pathik Indoor Stadium here on Tuesday.

Parveen, returning after her suspension for a whereabouts failure, shocked Poland's World championships silver medallist Aneta Rygielska 3-2 in a hard-fought duel. Arundhati outsmarted Germany's World Boxing Cup stage medallist Leonie Muller, with the referee stopping the contest.

Preeti, competing here after recovering from health issues, shocked Tokyo Olympics medallist and three-time World champion Huang Hsiao Wen 4-0. Five other home boxers, too, won their semifinal bouts.

Parveen surprisingly secured a 3-2 verdict in the first round. Against the experienced Rygielska, who moved in to land a bigger volume of punches to take the last two rounds with an identical 3-2 margin, Parveen gave her best and sneaked through on overall scoring.

Explosive southpaw Arundhati, a former World youth champion who returned following a surgery on her left wrist, overcame a nervous start to inflict three standing counts on Muller.

Preeti was at sea against the taller Huang in the first round, but got a 3-2 decision in her favour. She improved her attack subsequently to win the bout.

Select results: Semifinals:
Men: 65kg: Abhinash Jamwal bt Elvin Aliiev (Ukr) 5-0.
80kg: Ankush Panghal bt Marlon Sevehon (Aus) 5-0.
90kg: Issac Okoh (Eng) bt Naveen Kumar 5-0.
90+: Narender Berwal bt Daniyal Saparbay (Kaz) 4-1.
Women: 48kg: Minakshi Hooda bt Bak Chorong (Kor) 5-0.
54kg: Preeti Pawar bt Huang Hsiao Wen (Tpe) 4-0.
60kg: Parveen Hooda bt Aneta Rygielska (Pol) 3-2.
70kg: Arundhati Choudhary bt Leonie Muller (Ger) RSC-R3;
75kg: Emma Sue Greentree (Aus) bt Saweety Boora 5-0.
80+: Nupur Sheoran bt Mariia Lovchynska (Ukr) 5-0.

Ceremonial: Thakur makes the inaugural move in the second game of the quarterfinals between Arjun and Wei. FIDE

'Time ripe for India to bid for the Olympics'

P.K. Ajith Kumar
ARPORA (GOA)

Former Sports Minister Anuragh Singh Thakur believes it is important that India should bid and host the Olympics.

"We are a country of 1.4 billion people and the world's fourth-largest economy, and we have more than 10 years to 2036 when we are looking at hosting the Olympics," Thakur said here on Tuesday. "Next year we will be in the process of bidding, and we expect India to become the third-largest economy."

The former BCCI president was talking to reporters shortly before making the ceremonial opening move of the second game of the Chess World Cup quarterfinals.

"Looking at the young population, and the facilities, I think India stands a good chance and that the IOC will take our bid very seriously," he said. "As for the question of if one city is hosting it, or more than one, I think now we should focus on making a successful bid."

The MP from Hamirpur said he was happy to see FIDE honour Viswanathan Anand by naming the World Cup trophy after his name. "He is an inspiration for millions in India and abroad."

"I am delighted that Goa is hosting the World Cup. The State has become a hub for big events".

India loses to Bangladesh by a solitary goal

ASIAN CUP QUALIFIER

Press Trust of India
DHAKA

Already out of contention for a spot in the 2027 Asian Cup, India suffered another embarrassing defeat, losing 0-1 to Bangladesh in their penultimate Group-C match of the qualifying round on Tuesday.

Sheikh Morsalin scored in the 11th minute to the wild cheer of the crowd at the National Stadium. The match, though, had been rendered inconsequential as both sides were out of contention for the continental showpiece.

India got a chance in the 31st minute, but Lallianzuala Chhangte's shot from the top of the box after goalkeeper Mitul Marma was completely out of position was headed away by Hamza Choudhury. India remained rooted at the bottom of the four-team table (two points from five matches). India plays its last match of the qualifiers against Hong Kong at home on March 31, 2026.

The result: Bangladesh 1 (Morsalin 11) bt India 0.

Will India-A decide to test its bench strength?

Sahil Mathur
RAJKOT

Through the three-match one-day series, India-A hasn't had too much to sweat – especially in the second game, where it eased past South Africa-A to seal a 2-0 lead.

When the sides meet on Wednesday for the third game at the Niranjan Shah Stadium here, the visitors have more to play for than the hosts.

Marques Ackerman's men were more competitive in the red-ball games, drawing the series 1-1, but the gulf in quality has been clearer in the white-ball leg.

India-A has been dominant in both outings: the opener went to the final over, while the second was wrapped up inside 58 overs.

Arshdeep Singh, Prasidh Krishna, Harshit Rana and Nishant Sindhu have been central to India-A's dominance. The pace trio brings experience, while Nishant has been consistent in the 'A' setup.

Ayush Badoni and Riyan Parag have chipped in with useful overs alongside Vipraj Nigam. On Wednesday, Manav Suthar and Khaleel Ahmed – benched so far – could finally get a look-in.

Hardly stretched! Tilak & Co. have been dominant in the white-ball leg against South Africa-A. VIJAY SONEJI

With the bat, Ruturaj Gaikwad and Tilak Varma have handled tricky conditions under lights. Ruturaj has been in control, following up his century with an unbeaten 68. How head coach Hrishikesh Kanitkar rotates the XI will be worth watching, with Prabhsimran Singh yet to get a game.

For South Africa-A, the task is to lift its collective performance. The visitors haven't posted enough runs, nor have they troubled the India-A batters consistently. They have been sloppy under lights, too. The top-order has gone too hard too early. A couple of batters must bat deep, with Ackerman and Jordan Hermann expected to lead the revival.

Experienced pacer Lutho Sipamla and spinner Prenelan Subrayen will be key to finding breakthroughs.

After two matches on the same strip, a fresh and flatter pitch awaits. With big crowds turning out and a runfest possible, the finale promises to be an entertaining one.

INBRIEF

India's Raghu Prasad named FIH Male Umpire of the Year

India's Raghu Prasad, who has 198 international umpiring caps and 33 video umpire appointments, was on Tuesday named the FIH Male Umpire of the Year 2025 by the International Hockey Federation for "professionalism, dedication, and excellence" in officiating matches.

India's air rifle mixed teams win gold, bronze at Deaflympics

Dhanush Srikanth and Mahit Sandhu beat South Korea's Jeon Dain and Kim Woorim 17-7 to win the 10m air rifle mixed team event in the 25th Deaflympics in Tokyo on Tuesday. Mohd. Murtaza Vania and Komal Milind Waghmare got the better of Ukraine's Violeta Lykova and Oleksandr Kostyk 16-12 for the bronze.

Bangladesh women's tour of India postponed

The Indian women's cricket team's white-ball home series against Bangladesh next month has been postponed by the BCCI, which is aiming to work out an alternate assignment in the same window. The three ODIs and as many T20Is were part of the ICC Future Tours Programme and expected to be played in Kolkata and Cuttack.

Satwik-Chirag in second round of Australian Open

Shuttlers Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty entered the men's doubles second round with a 25-23, 21-16 win over Taiwan's Chang Ko-Chi and Po Li-Wei at the Australian Open Super 500 tournament in Sydney on Tuesday. In women's doubles, Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand lost 10-21, 14-21 to Indonesia's F. Kusuma and M. Puspitasari in their opener.

Shreyas and Shikhar spin Karnataka to innings win

The former returns a ten-wicket match haul while the latter takes five in the second essay; Chandigarh skipper Vohra stands tall with an unbeaten century in the first innings

Two to tango: The Chandigarh batters found Shreyas, left, and Shikhar, who castled Nishunk in the first essay, right, too hot to handle. KIRAN BAKALE

RANJI TROPHY

S. Prasanna Venkatesan
HUBBALLI

On the eve of his team's Elite Group-B fifth-round Ranji Trophy clash against Karnataka, captain Manan Vohra said Chandigarh's campaign had faltered because of a misfiring batting unit, urging players to take responsibility.

It seemed only he answered that call on the third day at the KSCA Stadium here on Tuesday. His unbeaten first-innings century (106, 161b, 12x4, 1x6) was the lone act of defiance in two faltering replies, as Chandigarh was bowled out for 222 and 140 in response to Karnataka's 547 for eight declared.

Winning by an innings and 185 runs, Karnataka bagged seven points.

It was a day written in revolutions. The spinners wove their spells in tightening loops, coaxing edges, hesitation, and finally capitulation.

Leg-spinner Shreyas Gopal (seven for 73) set the tone immediately, trapping A.K. Kaushik leg-before for zero with the first ball of the day and suddenly finding himself on a hat-trick. Raj Bawa (10) survived the next delivery – the umpire unmoved despite a swell of voices around the bat for a caught-behind. Shreyas soon drew the edge anyway, Bawa nicking behind to give him his tenth First Class five-for and second of the season.

From overs 53.5 to 63.2, the innings unraveled like a seam splitting under quiet pressure. Four wickets fell in that narrow passage – Shreyas had Taranpreet Singh (seven) caught at silly mid-off and Jagjit Singh Sandhu leg-before (zero), while left-arm spinner Shikhar Shetty bowled both Gaurav Puri (32) and Nishunk Birla (nine) through the gate.

Chandigarh's second innings lasted only long enough to fall apart, as Shikhar claimed his maiden First Class five-for (five for 61). He had opener Shivam Bhambri (43), Vohra (six), and Kaushik (zero) edge to Smaran at slip, Gaurav (13) top-edge a sweep to Abhinav Manohar at short fine leg, and Vishu Kashyap (five) chip to Mohsin Khan at mid-off.

Shreyas took three for 45 to finish with a 10-wicket match haul (10/118).

The scores: Karnataka — 1st innings: 547/8 decl.
Chandigarh — 1st innings: Shivam Bhambri b Shreyas 16, Arjun Azad b Mohsin 32, Vishu Kashyap lbw b Shreyas 5, Manan Vohra (not out) 106, Nikhil Thakur c Shrijith b Shreyas 1, A.K. Kaushik lbw b Shreyas 0, Rajangad Bawa c Shrijith b Shreyas 10, Gaurav Puri b Shikhar 32, Taranpreet Singh c Aneesh b Shreyas 7, Jagjit Singh Sandhu lbw b Shreyas 0, Nishunk Birla b Shikhar 9; Extras (b-4): 4; Total (in 63.2 overs): 222.
Fall of wickets: 1-41, 2-53, 3-58, 4-72, 5-72, 6-104, 7-188, 8-199, 9-201.
Karnataka bowling: Kaverappa 5-1-14-0, Vidyadhar 7-2-34-0, Mohsin 12-0-54-1, Shreyas 23-2-73-7, Shikhar 16.2-3-43-2.
Chandigarh — 2nd innings: Shivam Bhambri c Smaran b Shikhar 43, Arjun Azad c Mohsin b Kaverappa 0, Nikhil Thakur lbw b Shreyas 19, Manan Vohra c Smaran b Shikhar 6, A.K. Kaushik c Smaran b Shikhar 0, Raj Bawa run out 27, Gaurav Puri c Abhinav b Shikhar 13, Taranpreet Singh c Karun b Shreyas 4, Vishu Kashyap c Mohsin b Shikhar 5, Jagjit Singh Sandhu b Shreyas 4, Nishunk Birla (not out) 1; Extras (b-8, lb-10): 18; Total (in 33.5 overs): 140.
Fall of wickets: 1-1, 2-65, 3-71, 4-75, 5-95, 6-120, 7-125, 8-130, 9-134.
Karnataka bowling: Kaverappa 4-2-2-1, Vidyadhar 3-1-10-0, Shreyas 13-1-45-3, Shikhar 12.5-2-61-5, Mohsin 1-0-4-0.

All due to pre-season efforts, says Shreyas

S. Prasanna Venkatesan
HUBBALLI

Karnataka leg-spinner Shreyas Gopal has had an impressive Ranji Trophy campaign so far, making decisive contributions with both ball and bat.

Talking about his pre-season bowling preparation here on Tuesday, he said: "I think I bowled almost 1400 overs coming in from Thimmappaiah (red-ball tournament) all the way until the end of IPL.

"So, if you really look at it, you would probably come up to me and say, 'You've overbowled.' But I always believe that as a wrist-spinner, since the art is a lot harder and a lot more complicated, you need volumes.

"It's something that I've always believed for a very long time now. When you've already loaded up pre-season, your instincts and muscle memory take over.

"And I've been working a lot on the angles that I bowl, especially to the right-hand batters – bowling from closer to the crease, from a wider angle at the crease, and using the depth of the crease.

"I think those are the smaller things that I started using in the last four or five years, and I think I've kind of understood it a lot more over the last three years.

"Other than that, you will take a little time as a spinner to mature, and probably at 32, you understand (your craft better)."

Saying that he "backs his defence" and knows how to get himself "out of a spot of bother" as a batter, he added that he's "working on" converting his fifties into hundreds.

BENGALURU ROUND-UP

Karnataka sitting pretty against Uttarakhand

Karnataka moved to a comfortable position on the third day of its BCCI Cooch Behar under-19 trophy match against Uttarakhand at Alur (1) ground in Bengaluru. Set a target of 159, Karnataka was 44 for one.

The scores: Uttarakhand 202 and 191 in 77.1 overs (Bhavya 30, Rakshit Dalakoti 88, Ayush Deswal 30, Akshath Prabhakar 5/20) vs. Karnataka 235 and 44/1 in 7 overs.

Keerthana and Umadevi triumph

Keerthana Pandian won the State-ranking senior women's snooker tournament title here. Umadevi Nagaraj claimed the senior women's billiards crown.

The results: Snooker: Final: Keerthana Pandian bt Umadevi Nagaraj 48-24, 66-16, 61-22

Billiards: Umadevi Nagaraj bt Keerthana Pandian 75-50, 75-49; Keerthana bt K.S. Roopa 75-36, 75-15; Umadevi bt K.S. Roopa 75-0, 75-39.

Final ranking: 1. Umadevi, 2. Keerthana, 3. K.S. Roopa.

Easy for Bengaluru FC

Bengaluru FC defeated HAL 4-1 in the KSFA Super Division football league here on Tuesday.

The results: BFC 4 (Rishi Singh 26, 90+2, 90+6, Rohen Singh 67) bt HAL 1 (Arshad 45); Parikrma FC 3 (T. Haokip 16, S. Sharan 31, H. Kipgen 85) bt Rebels FC 1 (R. Lingu 41); Bangalore Dream United FC 2 (Lalrinfela 23, M. Yogesh 56) bt Roots FC 1 (Amarjith Singh 50).

RANJI SCORES — ROUND 5 (DAY THREE)

Elite: Group A: Jamshedpur: Jharkhand 328 & 34/2 in 15 overs vs. Andhra 567/6 decl. in 128 overs (Abhishek Reddy 247, K.S. Bharat 51, Shaik Rasheed 58, Karan Shinde 94).
Bhubaneswar: Odisha 275 & 350/5 decl. in 71 overs (Swastik Samal 169, Subhranshu Senapati 137) vs. Nagaland 161 & 41/1 in 18 overs.
Coimbatore: Tamil Nadu 455 vs. Uttar Pradesh 339/6 in 113 overs (Abhishek Goswami 79, Aryan Juyal 43, Rinku Singh 98 batting, Shivam Mavi 54).
Nagpur: Vidarbha 169 & 272 in 98.2 overs (Atharva Taide 40, Dhruv Shorey 61, Yash Rathod 91, R. Samarth 45, Atit Sheth 5/47) vs. Baroda 166 & 73/5 in 32 overs (Darshan Nalkande 4/7).
Group B: New Chandigarh: Maharashtra 350 bt Punjab 151 in 58.4 overs (Rajneesh Gurbani 4/39, Rajvardhan Hangargekar 5/44) & 107 in 40.5 oves (Vicky Ostwal 6/26). **Points: Maharashtra 7(18), Punjab 0(11).**
Rajkot: Saurashtra 585/7 decl. vs. Goa 358 in 106.2 overs (Abhinav Tejrana 118, Lalit Yadav 59, Rajashekhar Harikant 69, Yuvrajsinh Dodiya 6/98) & 77/2 in 16.3 overs.
Indore: Kerala 281 & 226/3 in 64 overs (Sachin Baby 85 batting, B. Aparajith 89 batting) vs. Madhya Pradesh 192 in 77.1 overs (Saransh Jain 67, Eden Apple Tom 4/55).
Hubballi: Karnataka 547/8 decl. bt Chandigarh 222 in 63.2 overs (Manan Vohra 106 n.o., Shreyas Gopal 7/73) & 140 in 33.5 overs (Shivam Bhambri 43, Shikhar Shetty 5/61). **Karnataka 7(21), Chandigarh 0(1).**
Group C: Kalyani: Assam 200 & 98/3 in 38 overs (Denish Das 63 batting) vs. Bengal 442 in 109.1 overs (Abhimanyu Easwaran 66, Shakir Habib Gandhi 58, Anustup Majumdar 43, Shahbaz Ahmed 101, Sumanta Gupta 97).
Valsad: Tripura 136 & 193 in 68.3 overs (Swapnil Singh 41, Raj Choudhary 5/35) lost to Railways 446/9 decl. in 127 overs (Kush Marathe 78, Mohammad Saif 158, Bhargav Merai 160, Abhijit Sarkar 4/69). **Railways 7(11), Tripura 0(6).**
Dehradun: Gujarat 324/8 decl. & 291/5 decl. in 66.3 overs (Aarya Desai 80, Urvil Patel 58, Jaymeet Patel 60) vs. Uttarakhand 272 & 43/0 in 15 overs.
Lahli: Services 205 & 283/7 decl. in 108 overs (Ravi Chauhan 40, Rajat Paliwal 61, Vineet Dhankhar 57 n.o.) vs. Haryana 111 & 136/6 in 34 overs (Yashvardhan Dalal 46 batting).
Group D: Mumbai: Mumbai 630/5 decl. vs. Pondicherry 132 in 47.2 overs (Mohit Kale 53) & 231/6 in 45 overs (Neyan Shyam Kangayan 42, Siddhant Addhatrao 51 batting, Aman Khan 86).
Nadaun: Chhattisgarh 585/6 decl. vs. Himachal Pradesh 274/4 in 94.3 overs (Ankit Kalsi 118 batting, Nikhil Gangta 77).
Jammu: Jammu & Kashmir 170 & 422 in 100.5 overs (Qamran Iqbal 50, Vivrant Sharma 45, Abdul Samad 125, Kanhaiya Wadhawan 95, Tanay Thyagarajann 4/87) vs. Hyderabad 121 & 169/7 in 52.3 overs (Tanmay Agarwal 47, Abid Mushtaq 4/56).
Rajsamand: Rajasthan 570/7 decl. vs. Delhi 296 in 92.2 overs (Arpit Rana 62, Vaibhav Kandpal 62, Pranav Rajvanshi 57, Siddhant Sharma 46).
Plate: Patna: Mizoram 509 vs. Bihar 522 in 136.3 overs (Mangal Mahrour 102, Ayush Loharuka 136, Bipin Saurabh 47, Suraj Kashyap 73, Khalid Alam 59, Himanshu Singh 49).
Surat: Meghalaya 430 & 49/1 in 17 overs vs. Manipur 342 in 126.3 overs (Al Bashid Muhammed 64, Kangabam Priyojit 71, Pheiroijam Jotin 86).
Rangpo: Arunachal Pradesh 91 & 104 in 44.3 overs (Ankur Malik 4/28) lost to Sikkim 514/7 decl. **Sikkim 7(15), Arunachal Pradesh 0(0).**

Netherlands and Germany run riot

Airborne: Sane scores a stunner for Germany against Slovakia. AP

Agence France-Presse
PARIS

Germany and the Netherlands went on goal sprees as they wrapped up World Cup qualification with resounding wins in their last European group matches on Monday. Germany beat Slovakia 6-0 in Leipzig, while the Netherlands routed Lithuania 4-0 in Amsterdam.

The results: Group A: Germany 6 (Woltemade 18, Gnabry 29, Sane 36, 41, Baku 67, Ouedraogo 79) bt Slovakia 0; Northern Ireland 1 (Donley 44-pen) bt Luxembourg 0. **G:** Malta 2 (Cardona 36, Teuma 68-pen) lost to Poland 3 (Lewandowski 32, Wszolek 59, Zielinski 85). Netherlands 4 (Reijnders 16, Gakpo 58-pen, Simons 60, Malen 62) bt Lithuania 0. **L:** Montenegro 2 (Osmajic 3, Krstovic 17) lost to Croatia 3 (Perisic 37-pen, Jakic 72, Vlasic 87); Czech Republic 6 (Doudera 5, Chory 18, Coufal 32, Karabec 39, Soucek 44, Hranac 51) bt Gibraltar 0.

Medvedev, Rybakina to play in Bengaluru WTL

TENNIS

Sports Bureau
BENGALURU

The fourth season of the World Tennis League (WTL) will be held at the S.M. Krishna Tennis Stadium here from December 17 to 20.

This is the first time that the league is coming to India after the previous three editions were held in the United Arab Emirates. The likes of Daniil Medvedev, Nick Kyrgios, Elena Rybakina, Paula Badosa, and India players Yuki Bhambri, Ankita Raina, Shrivalli Bhamidipaty will compete in the tournament, it was announced on Tuesday.

"I've heard so much about the tennis culture in India, and I'm thrilled to make my debut here with WTL. The league has an exciting format, and I'm ready to enjoy every moment on the court with my team," World No. 5 Rybakina said.

Licensed and managed by Iconik Sports and Events Ltd., the WTL was co-founded by multiple-time Grand Slam champion Mahesh Bhupathi.

LIVE TELECAST

NZ vs WI: 2nd ODI, Sony Sports Ten 1 & LIV, 6.30 a.m.
Ranji Trophy: JioHotstar, 9.30 a.m.
Bangladesh vs Ireland: 2nd Test, day 1, FanCode, 9.30 a.m.
Asia Cup Rising Stars: Sony Sports Ten 1 & LIV, 3 & 8 p.m.
Chess World Cup: FIDE YouTube channel, 3 p.m.

Brilliant Bavuma's message for India: Be careful what you wish for

BETWEEN WICKETS
Suresh Menon

In the 2012-13 series against England, when skipper M.S. Dhoni asked for a turning track at Eden Gardens, the curator Prabhir Mukherjee told him this was "immoral." Coach Gautam Gambhir's instructions, however, were taken on board by Mukherjee's successor, but India lost again, making it four in six at home.

Visiting spinners claiming more wickets than Indians on home tracks is not a recent phenomenon. India lost to Australia in 1969-70 despite fielding the great spinners Erapalli Prasanna (26 wickets), Bishan Bedi (21), and S. Venkatraghavan and better batters against spin in the line-up. Ashley Mallett (28) and John Glesson (10) were the successful spinners while medium pacers Graham McKenzie and Alan Connolly had 38 wickets between them.

"Better batters against spin" turned out to be an exaggeration then, as it appears to be now. The Indian spinners kept telling their batters, as Bedi often reminded us, "Please give us at least 250 runs to bowl at."

In the last century, home tracks often challenged the home team. Richie Benaud (23 wickets to Vinoo Mankad's 11 and Subhash Gupte's 12) in 1956 (Australia won 2-0), Derek Underwood (29 to Bedi's 25) in 1975-76 as England won 3-1 are other examples. Just over a decade ago, England won a series in India after 28 years thanks to Graeme Swann (20 wickets) and Monty Panesar (17). By themselves these statistics may not tell the whole story, but together they point to a pattern, perhaps suggesting the adage about spin in India might not necessarily be true.

It is also useful to remember that just as India's game against pace and swing while playing abroad has improved well enough to win them series in Australia and England, the preparation against spin by visiting teams has seen a sea-change too.

Gambhir might have, by his own admission, got the wicket he wanted in Kolkata, but you have to be careful what you wish for. If two spinners cannot do the job, there is little point in picking four, at least one of whom is bound to be under-bowled, and only one can be classed a genuine Test all-rounder.

So where did India lose the Test? When they were dismissed for 189 in the first innings? When they collapsed in the second? On the third morning, India took their foot off the pedal, allowing South Africa to score 60 runs. Some of their intensity was gone. India seemed to feel it was only a matter of time, as if their win was pre-ordained and South Africa's batters would merely have to play out the roles allotted to them.

This is a dangerous attitude in Test cricket. Things don't just happen, you have to go out and make them happen. Rishabh Pant, normally a proactive captain might have delayed bringing on Jasprit Bumrah. You start the day's play with your best bowler; especially against the bottom half of the batting. That is woven into the fabric of strategy.

Gambhir may have been right when he said that the 124 to win was gettable. Clearly he didn't explain how and why well enough to his batters. South Africa were superb, India choked.

Temba Bavuma didn't get to lead his team to ten wins in 11 matches by hanging around and allowing things to happen. He made things happen. His captaincy is a lesson for both Pant and Gill, the latter forced to watch from his hospital bed (if at all). Quietly, professionally, Bavuma went about his business. He should have been Player-of-the-Match as much for his captaincy as for his batting. In Marco Jansen and off-spinner Simon Harmer he had men for the job. Their self-belief was evident.

Indian batters tend to look down upon off spin, viewing it as fodder in any format. Perhaps that's why Washington Sundar was given just one over on a helpful track. India were once seen as tigers at home, but lambs abroad. The turnaround has been startling. If Gambhir is beginning to feel insecure, he has time enough to look afresh at the team's attitude. It ain't over till the fat lady sings is a cliché in sport for a good reason.